

SPEECHES

delivered by

HIS EXCELLENCY

Colonel the Right Hon'ble

Sir Francis Stanley Jackson, P.C., G.C.I.E

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL

during

1931-32.

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**Speeches *delivered by His Excellency
Sir Francis Stanley Jackson during
1931-32.**

***His Excellency's Speech on the occasion
of placing the last of the Main Girders
of the Bally Bridge in position on 27th
July 1931.***

GENERAL COLVIN, MR. SLEIGH, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN,

I greatly appreciate the compliment you have paid me in asking me to come here to-day and, as you put it, to take a share in the work of completing the Main Girders of the Bally Bridge. You are quite right when you suggest that I have been deeply interested in the construction of this Bridge. I have watched its progress from the first day the foundation of the piers was started and I shall never forget the feelings of wonder and admiration I experienced when I saw the floating into position of the second span weighing 1,700 tons with an ease and complacency as though it was a part of a toy railway. To the uninitiated the task seemed almost too simple.

The successful repetition of this feat shows the perfection to which scientific hydraulics has attained to-day. But, Sir, the greatest factor in the successful accomplishment of this work has been the human agency. I can well appreciate with what

care and anxiety every detail in connection with such an undertaking must have been worked out. The margin of error permissible must have been very minute and the perfect co-ordination of every man, from the top to the bottom, who having learnt his part carried it out, is indeed worthy of greatest commendation. The magnitude of the work is best indicated by the detail of material used including 50 tons of paint for preservation purposes.

My interest in this Bridge was first aroused when, early in my term of office, the Government of Bengal decided to join hands with the Railway authorities and arrangements were made for the inclusion of a roadway in the project. I feel sure that this was a wise decision. This structure will thereby render its maximum of service as an un-interruptable connection between the two banks of the river. The completion of the Bridge, with its six piers, is of special interest and should prove of assistance in solving the problems which have held up the construction of the Howrah Bridge for such a long time. As far as I know, your invasion of the bottom of the Hooghly has not created that resentment on the part of the river which some experts feared. I only wish it was possible, when your work on this bridge is completed, to borrow your organisation as it stands and transfer your activities to Howrah.

I feel a sense of satisfaction to know that I have an advantage over my predecessors, all of whom, I believe, expressed a more or less confident hope that they would drive across the Hooghly over a permanent and more solid structure than the

present floating bridge. A permanent bridge across the Hooghly over which one can drive has been begun and should be completed in my time—an accomplishment of which we are all proud.

I have heard with much interest what you have said with reference to the fabrication of the Girders and that 65 per cent. of the steel used has been made in India. This shows what Indian industry can do now-a-days in this line. I was also pleased to hear that the rivetting of the steelwork has been done by the staff of the Railway with Rai Bahadur Jagmal Raja as contractor. The Rai Bahadur's record of service in connection with bridge construction is one of which he may well be proud. The Bridge will provide further testimony to the high standard of workmanship for which the firm of Messrs. Braithwaite & Co., are so justly renowned.

It appears to me that the Bridge presents a valuable object lesson; it adds another to the innumerable monuments, throughout India, of what can be accomplished by co-operation of British and Indian effort. Praise will no doubt be bestowed where it is due when the Bridge is completed and formally opened next cold weather, but I feel I also must take my opportunity to congratulate first those responsible for the fabrication of the steelwork, and also Mr. Mair, the Executive Engineer of the Bridge, who has been on the work since construction was begun, and with whom I must associate the Railway staff and your contractor, who have carried out the rivetting and erection, on the excellent job which their united efforts have made of the Bridge. And though he has not even hinted

at it in the modest speech to which we have just listened. I have not the least doubt that for the successful result now in prospect the Railway authorities will consider themselves under a heavy obligation to the co-ordinating genius and the skilful supervision of Mr. Sleigh himself.

And now it is my privilege to place in position the last Main Girder of the Bally Bridge. I hope the Bridge may play a useful part in the general prosperity of Bengal.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Fifteenth Annual Conference of
Union Board Presidents and Members,
Dacca, on 6th August 1931.***

GENTLEMEN,

It has always been a pleasure to me to attend the opening session of this Conference of Union Board Presidents and Members of Dacca district and to meet so many who render useful and valuable service to the community. I understand that after the passing of the Act you were fortunate in having the benefit of successive District Magistrates who spared neither time nor effort to establish Union Boards and to assure their successful working. Their efforts were loyally supported by the District Board and, with the assistance of prominent local gentlemen, the result has been that the Union Board system in the Dacca district compares most favourably with any throughout the Province.

I was pleased to hear from your Collector that the last remaining Panchayeti Unions have given place to Union Boards so that the network of the Union Board organisation now covers the entire district. This will, in all probability, be the last Union Board Conference which it will be my privilege to attend in this district and I am glad to think that so far as this district is concerned the transformation commenced in the time of Lord Ronaldshay has been brought to completion during my term of office.

I have been greatly interested in the development and extension of the Union Board organisation throughout this Province, as I feel that it is the only basis upon which a satisfactory system of democratic Government, which you must one day have, can be established. I also feel sure that the responsibilities which must fall upon you in the future will be greater than they are to-day. Union Boards afford the simplest method of teaching electors the power of the vote and their responsibility in using it.

As your electors should know best who are the most trustworthy men of the neighbourhood to entrust with the management of local affairs, so too they are in the best position to judge and to impress upon their representatives what are the most pressing needs of the Board area,—whether roads, or water-supply, or primary education or dispensaries. And having made up their minds on this point, they have the satisfaction of seeing all the money raised by the Board actually spent within their own area,—either on their own village police or else on those works of public utility which they themselves have chosen.

While the working of the Act is commonly attended by all these advantages to the people of the localities served by Union Board, there is the further advantage—that by this system of Village Self-Government we are undoubtedly creating in the rural areas a class of men imbued with ideals of service, trained in the elements of local administration and with a knowledge of the requirements of the cultivating and labouring classes, to whom we may with confidence look in the future to redress the balance in the Provincial and even the Imperial Councils between city and country,

between the vocal townsmen and the inarticulate masses in the villages. In a land where 90 per cent. of the population live outside the towns the greater part of them depending for their livelihood on agriculture, fishing and analogous pursuits, the Councils cannot adequately reflect the wishes or the interests of the country as a whole, until the people of the mufasil areas have learnt how to form a public opinion of their own, and how to organise, in order to secure due consideration for that opinion. I believe that here in Bengal this truer representation will come, I hope, quickly, thanks to the Village Self-Government Act and to the Primary Education Act which was placed on the Provincial Statute Book last year.

I am glad to hear, Mr. Chairman, that the Union Board system in this district has withstood, on the whole successfully, attempts to stop their functioning. Such attempts display a spirit of destruction gone mad,—especially where the institutions and activities attacked are of the admittedly constructive and beneficent character of the Union Boards. A policy of this kind shows clearly the utter bankruptcy of statesmanship in the party which advocates it and attempts to put it into action. I am glad that in Dacca, as indeed in most of the districts of the Province, this attempt to deprive you of your new self-governing institutions has met with the rebuff which it deserved. My advice to you, Presidents, Members and Union Board electors, is to stand fast and resolutely refuse, whatever your politics may be, to brook any interference with your new-gained power to manage your own local affairs.

The Village Self-Government Act has proved beneficial ; but all acts can be improved by careful amendments after reasonable experience of their working. Such a case occurred this last session in the Legislative Council and I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating your Chairman, Rai Keshab Chandra Banerjee Bahadur, who has within the last fortnight successfully piloted through the Legislative Council a short Amending Act among the effects of which are to give to Union Boards important powers for undertaking veterinary work, for making their own bye-laws and for co-operating with other Union Boards in matters affecting the interests of both,—such for example as the maintenance of a joint dispensary. This last provision will, I am sure, be welcomed by the poorer boards as opening out prospects to which they had been unable to look forward so long as action had to be single-handed.

It was inevitable that in the prevailing economic depression the money available from Union Board funds for works of public utility should have shown last year a serious decrease. Much improvement during the current year cannot, I fear, be expected but I was pleased to hear in your statement, Mr. Chairman, that “the collection of union rates has not been altogether unsatisfactory.” This indicates the feeling of confidence which the rate-payers have in the Boards, which comes only from fair and just administration. In these difficult times a good deal of sacrifice on all sides is involved and Union Boards must do what they can to keep alive the spirit of self-help which is the main inspiration of the Union Board system.

But if, for the time being, it is necessary to slow down the undertaking of local schemes for works of public utility, I hope you will not think that the Union Boards must necessarily lose for that period any of their usefulness. On the contrary, before leaving you to your deliberations this morning, I wish to draw your very particular attention to a phase of your responsibilities which has gained added importance under the conditions of the moment. Addressing a gathering like this I need hardly labour the point that in common with other parts of the country, Bengal is suffering from a serious wave of crime. The figures of violent crime against person and property,—like robbery and dacoity,—are probably the worst that any of you can remember. I need not enter deeply into the causes of this outbreak. Coming on top of the spirit of lawlessness and defiance of authority engendered by the Civil Disobedience movement, which in itself involved in a large measure the pre-occupation of the regular police and their diversion from their normal duties with regard to professional crime, you have acute economic depression resulting in widespread hardship. It is easy to see that you have there the makings of trouble, and the present position with respect to crimes like dacoity must be regarded as exceedingly grave. It is not to the interest of anyone with a stake in the country—indeed of any honest man—that the present state of affairs should continue and Government are determined to set a limit to it. This cannot be done without the help of the public—in no country in the world can the police maintain a check on professional crime unless they have the active co-operation of the public at large. I want, therefore, to-day to invite you to give Government this co-operation.

It is no part of my intention this morning to go into details regarding the various forms your co-operation should take. Your Subdivisional Magistrates and your Circle Officers will advise you, and your district police naturally know best, what form your co-operation can most usefully take. These are details which must be settled in discussion, and Government have already circulated local officers urging upon them the necessity of calling in Union Board authorities to such discussion. I ask you now to rise to the full measure of your responsibilities in this matter. The time has gone,—if it ever existed,—when the public could stand aside and leave the control of crime entirely to the forces of the State. You are faced with a menace which threatens society with destruction: I call upon you for your own sake to combine against that menace before it overwhelms you.

And now, gentlemen, it only remains for me to tell you how deeply touched I am by the cordial terms in which the Union Board Association have couched their message of farewell. My good-will towards you has been very genuine, and if only I had been able fully to implement that good-will towards your Association and its work, I feel I might have had some claim to the gratitude you so generously expressed in your address. You know, however, as well as I do how extremely limited are the resources in Bengal upon which we can draw, and my powers of helping are correspondingly limited.

You ask me to give my “personal attention to the necessity of making provision for improving the financial conditions of Union Boards.” I shall

be quite prepared to urge Government to extend all the encouragement possible to Union Boards, but I am not hopeful of being able to assure you at this moment of any direct financial support from Government. At the moment all sources of supply are dried up. This condition will not last forever and with a return to general prosperity you will once again be able to apply those principles of self-help which the Union Board system was founded to encourage.

I am well aware that public opinion in this district is alive to the dangers of water-hyacinth. You have referred to them in your address. The problem of dealing with this weed has been engaging the attention of Government for a long time past. I am not without hope that some economical method of effectively dealing with it will be discovered as a result of the research which has already been initiated at the instance of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. If and when some constructive proposal has been accepted, Government will undoubtedly look to the Union Board to mobilise public opinion and organise co-operation to carry it into effect.

And now, gentlemen, I have said all that there is time for me to say. You have a long and interesting agenda before you and I will not keep you from it longer. It has been a great pleasure to come here to-day to hear of your progress and to distribute rewards and certificates. I very heartily congratulate those whose labours have been recognised this morning. I thank you for your hearty welcome and good wishes which I very warmly reciprocate.

His Excellency's Speech at the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj Convocation on 11th August 1931.

LEARNED PANDITS OF THE SARASWAT SAMAJ,

This is the third time I have had the pleasure of presiding over your Convocation in Dacca. It is an honour which I greatly appreciate and an experience which is somewhat unique even among the many and varied duties of a Governor. Though there is excellent authority in your ancient books for the close connection between Ruler and Pandit in ancient India, I must confess to feeling a certain trepidation when I am confronted with so great a gathering of sages. I take courage, however, from a recollection of the traditional courtesy and simple modesty of your profession and from a consideration of the very loyal and cordial terms in which your address is couched.

I join with you in mourning the distinguished members of your body who have passed away during the three years that have elapsed since last we met: and I am thinking especially of that fine old scholar, your President, Mahamahopadhyaya Sashi Bhusan Smritiratna, whose profound learning and saintly life have left to his colleagues and pupils a shining example and a fragrant memory.

You have referred in your address to the economic difficulties of the day, and I can well believe that these are felt by the Pandits no less than by other classes of the community. From time immemorial Pandits in Bengal have collected students around them and formed *tols*. *Tol* students

come, I believe, mainly from poor Pandit families and seldom have private means to pay for their education. Long established tradition requires that not only should no tuition fee be charged, but that as far as possible free board and lodging should be provided for the students,—at least for such as are not in receipt of stipends. And while, therefore, one effect of the system has been to throw a heavy burden on the Pandits in times of economic distress, this has, to some extent, been mitigated by the result to which you have alluded in your address,—the intimacy of the relations between teacher and pupil which has always been a characteristic and commendable feature of your *tōls*.

I am glad to learn that this close and ancient bond persists. In an age when the old reverence which scholars rendered to their teachers has largely disappeared, it is refreshing to find that a body whose influence I believe to be entirely for good can claim still to enjoy the confidence and willing homage of its pupils. The breakdown of the old relations between master and pupil in other spheres of educational life has been to a great extent responsible for the present deplorable contempt for discipline and order throughout the country, and while I have no desire to enter upon the thorny subject of politics to-day, I believe I shall not be going beyond the ideals of their religion and profession when I urge upon the Pandits of the Saraswat Samaj to throw all the weight of their great influence on the side of that atmosphere of peace and order in which alone learning can pursue its way unhampered, and against violence to person and property whether for personal gain or

for so-called political ends. For the sake of the future of the country, I would ask you to impress upon your pupils the vital importance of ensuring that when Bengal,—yes, and India too,—receive their new constitutions they should not receive with them that terrible heritage of anarchy and disorder which some of the younger generation seem now to be bent on laying up for them.

In your address you have expressed concern at certain proposals of the Calcutta University whereby Sanskrit (or some other classical language in its place) shall no longer be a compulsory subject in the Matriculation examination: you would press that the study of Sanskrit should be compulsory for all Hindu pupils up to the Matriculation standard. You base your case on grounds of religion and argue that to the Hindu “Sanskrit holds the key to life itself.” I do not doubt the value of the social or the religious teaching imparted, but I wonder what quantity of it the youth will imbibe through the medium of a language no longer current in common speech, and whether the average matriculate has a sufficient command of Sanskrit to enable him to appreciate the great philosophic truths enshrined in it. However, leaving aside the religious aspect I think there is little reason to fear that the study of Sanskrit, either as a language or as the vehicle of a system of philosophy, will suffer if this change is brought about. The University is the custodian of academic interests and in a matter of such great importance it is to me unthinkable that its authorities should lightly come to a decision which would imperil the true interests of Sanskrit learning. I doubt very much whether Greek

scholarship has suffered appreciably in England from the abolition of the compulsory principle: I have heard it argued that it is, rather, an advantage that the study of an ancient and famous language should be pursued only by those who, from sheer love of it, deliberately choose it as an object of research. For Sanskrit, I take it, is an exacting mistress: she does not yield her secrets to any mere dabbler, but demands a life-time of study.

I am indeed gratified to hear—and the figures you have quoted fully bear out your claim—that you maintain past traditions of teaching and the high standard of your examinations. Your examinations are conducted, I know, on well-defined principles and a high standard of proficiency has always been insisted upon. It is this which gives to your degrees and titles the high value which is rightly placed upon them. I offer my sincere congratulations to those who have to-day received medals and prizes and the traditional gift of Benares *chadder*: And let me not forget to include in my felicitations the Pandits themselves who share in no ordinary degree the credit for their pupils' success. Both Lady Jackson and I feel gratified at the institution of a special stipend in her name to be awarded annually to a teacher of philosophy whose pupils have passed the examination of the Samaj with distinction.

I have heard with pleasure of the generous benefactions which have been made to the Samaj. The generosity of the enlightened lady of Bhowal is especially praiseworthy, and her endowment will be a great boon to the Samaj.

And now we must take our leave. We thank you for your prayers and the good wishes which, as you have assured us, will follow us on our return to our homeland. We shall certainly both of us remember with pleasure and affection our intercourse with the Pandits of Eastern Bengal and the kindness with which you have always welcomed us to your Convocation. It gives me great pleasure to ask you to accept the sum of Rs. 750 towards the funds of the Samaj. May your Society long flourish to keep alight the lamp of Brahminical learning and disinterested scholarship in an ever-increasing materialistic age.

I have learnt a few words of Sanskrit which, when I repeat them wherever I may be, will remind me of these pleasant functions.

Sārāswatā Sāmājsreer Bhārate Bhātu Bhāratee.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Sir Sallmullah Muslim Hall, Dacca,
on 11th August 1931.***

GENTLEMEN,

No public duty could give me more pleasure than that which I am called upon to undertake this morning. You, Sir, have reminded me that two years ago through the unavoidable inability of Lord Irwin to be present, it fell to my lot to lay the foundation-stone of this building. It is a matter of special satisfaction and pride to me to have seen this project completed and to have had the privilege, before the close of my term of office in Bengal, of handing over the Muslim Hall ready for occupation to the University.

In response to representations from leaders of the Muslim community, who were encouraged in their demands by the Reports of the Dacca University Committee of 1912 and of the Calcutta University Committee of 1917, Government accepted the recommendation in these Reports that a separate Hall for the Muslims should be erected as part of this University. The recommendation in the Reports was made with a view to providing facilities for the better education of Muslims in Eastern Bengal.

As long ago as 1920, the site was acquired and Government have since financed the entire construction and furnishing of the building at a cost of over 10 lakhs of rupees. The necessary grants were voted in the Legislative Council and this building

may be regarded as the gift of the people of Bengal to the University of Dacca and it is on behalf of all communities in Bengal that I stand here to-day as Head of the Province to make over the building to the authorities of the University and to express the wish that it may be so utilized that it will serve well and truly the interests of the community for whose special benefit it has been erected and through them the interests of the Province as a whole.

To those who have the advantage of membership of any of our older Universities in the United Kingdom, the inauguration of a Hall of this kind must make a profound appeal. It was the saying of a very learned Chancellor of England who enriched the nation by founding one of our most famous public schools and an equally famous college at Oxford, that “manners maketh man,”—by which I have always believed him to mean that character is formed by habits and behaviours. It is the prime object of an Institution like the one which we are opening to-day to instil in its *alumni* good manners, in that very far-reaching sense in which William of Wykeham used the term; such an Institution should be more than a hostel,—more than a mere boarding house: if it is to fulfil its true function it must develop to the full its own corporate life: it must have a soul of its own, keeping ever in view its ultimate aim,—to supplement the lecture with culture, to reinforce learning with character.

A stay of nearly five years has enabled me to appreciate the depth of the devotion that the Muslim community feel to their religion and the

mode of life it inculcates. I feel confident that this Hall will fully accomplish the primary object of its foundation. No one would deny that Muhammadanism and Muslim culture have a very definite contribution to make to the life and progress of the Province. In so far as this Hall enables young Muhammadans of Bengal to attain to a fuller measure of that culture, along with the knowledge and experience which the more academic side of the University aims at supplying, the Salimullah Hall will have justified the faith of the people and repaid them for their confidence and generosity.

I will not deny that there has been in the past some controversy,—and there may yet to-day be some misgivings—as to the wisdom of continuing communal institutions in our places of learning. Such institutions have their dangers in communally-minded countries and in anxious days like these. But if I mention the danger it is with a view also to pointing out the safeguard. The whole is greater than the part. The students of the Hall must never forget their higher allegiance to the Institution of which this Hall is but a component member. Remembering their obligations to the University as a whole, they will, I am confident, in their games, debates and lectures mingle freely and generously with their fellow-students of other creeds.

For a University should be a place where the student is brought into contact with experiences of many kinds,—with new ideals, new classes of people, new outlooks on life. There, if ever, he must lose his angularities and, as the saying goes, “have the corners rubbed off.” It may be that in the process

of mixing with Professors and fellow-students who have an outlook totally different from his own, he will come to understand and value his own outlook the more: well,—even that is worthwhile. But a University education will have greatly failed of its intention if the intercourse with others which the student there enjoys does not bring with it an increased understanding of their point of view and an increased sympathy for the difficulties, and toleration of the ideals, of others. From whence is an improvement of communal feeling to come if not from the educated classes and from the seats of learning? You cannot expect the humble villager to lead the way. Tolerance is a virtue of wisdom rather than of ignorance.

A great responsibility rests upon those—students and teachers—who are to have the benefit of this Hall. It will be easy to make it a failure: on the other hand it would be a glorious achievement to prove through the part it plays in University life that it has been one of the media through which better understanding and good-will between communities has been engendered.

It was a happy thought of the Vice-Chancellor to call upon Nawab Habibullah to invite me to open this building: it is right that he should play a part in to-day's ceremony both on account of the position which his family has long held in Eastern Bengal and on account of his own practical interest in the affairs of the University. I feel, too, that it is most fitting that this great Hall should by its name recall the services of the late Nawab Khwaja Sir Salimullah Bahadur, and his untiring efforts and

generous benefactions to the cause of Muhammadan education. In this connection the Vice-Chancellor, in acknowledging the generosity of certain gentlemen in founding scholarships, has very properly pointed out that further support of this kind is urgently needed if the Muslim Hall is to be kept fully tenanted and the maximum advantage is to be drawn from it. It would be a calamity if this magnificent Hall cannot be kept filled, but you know, gentlemen, better than I do, the weight of the economic handicap which lies on many of your community in Bengal and how difficult the majority of your young men find it to pursue their studies to the stage of graduation without financial assistance. A part from certain trust scholarships and Moslem stipends, Government already give 15 scholarships exclusively for Moslem students in this University, but I can well believe that these are not enough. I, therefore, fully endorse the appeal for endowments which the Vice-Chancellor has so eloquently made this morning and I have no doubt that the Provost, when he takes his place on the Committee recently appointed to advise Government as to the policy to be pursued for advancing Moslem education in Bengal, will suitably press this point and place before the Committee proposals for a more adequate scheme of scholarships for the Moslem students of the University.

Before declaring this building open, I must join the Vice-Chancellor in his expression of the regret we all feel at the unavoidable absence of the permanent Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Langley. It was with the greatest reluctance that I felt obliged to avail myself of his unselfishness and to agree to the

holding of this opening ceremony in his absence. He has done great work for the University and has taken special interest in this Hall. A telegram I have received shows that his thoughts and best wishes are with us to-day.

It only remains for me to express my admiration of the manner in which the building has been designed and carried out. The greatest credit is due to Mr. Gwyther of the Public Works Department who was the architect, to Mr. Blomfield, who mainly supervised the construction, and to Messrs. Griffin and Oakley for their technical advice. The work of the contractors has been throughout of the high standard that one has come to expect of the firm of Martin & Co.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to declare the Sir Salimullah Muslim Hall open. Our hope is that through this Institution the Muhammadans of Bengal will be encouraged and enabled to fit themselves for competition on equal terms with the young men of other communities and thereby ensure their taking a rightful place in the life of the Province: so will Bengal be enriched by the contribution which the Moslem community can make to its culture and prosperity: only so can the Province benefit by the great traditions to which one half of its sons are heirs.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Darbar
held at Dacca on 12th August 1931.***

GENTLEMEN,

There are good reasons why I might reasonably be expected to say a few words on this occasion. In the first place the general conditions throughout the Province and especially in Eastern Bengal call for comment and, secondly, in the ordinary course of events this should be the last occasion upon which I shall have the pleasure of meeting you in Darbar at Dacca. I wish we met on this occasion under happier conditions. I should naturally have preferred to be able to bid you farewell with a knowledge that I was leaving Bengal with things a little better and more hopeful than when I arrived about five years ago, but it is rather difficult to say that this is the case to-day. A good deal of the trouble is, perhaps, due to circumstances over which we have little control. With the rest of India we are suffering from an unprecedented world depression which has hit Bengal and especially Eastern Bengal as hard as any other part in India.

The past year has been full of anxiety and difficulty for all,—officials and non-officials. I doubt if any one here can remember a time when the economic position were so serious and the immediate outlook was so unpromising. The economic trouble by itself has been enough to demand the greater part of our time and attention, and the general political situation added to our

difficulties and anxiety owing to the outbreak of the Civil Disobedience movement and the wave of violence and defiance of constituted authority which flowed naturally in its train.

Eastern Bengal especially has felt the effect of the world depression and of the unprecedented fall in the price of jute which has resulted in a stoppage of the supply of the money which for years has flowed regularly into circulation in this area. Fortunately this last year there has been an ample supply of food-stuffs available. The prospects for this year were good, but the news of serious floods in certain areas is most disturbing. It is too early to predict the extent of the damage, but from reports of experienced and reliable officers I am hopeful that it will not prove so serious as might have been expected. Much damage must have been done, however, and I can well realise the distress of those whose hopes have been so cruelly disappointed. Unfortunately floods in these great rivers are at present beyond man's control and, coming at this time, these floods greatly add to the difficulties of Government, but Government realise that help will be necessary and I understand that steps have already been taken by the authorities for relief in some of the areas affected.

Government realise the difficulties all are experiencing. Zamindars find it hard to realise their rents, whilst the labourer is suffering from greatly reduced wages and shortage of work. The economic position is forcing occupiers to do the work themselves instead of hiring others to do it for them: a most difficult situation has been created, which Government must do everything in its powers to

meet in an effort to mitigate difficulty and distress. It is, however, obvious that the burden is not one to be carried by Government alone. We must all mobilise our reserves to meet this difficult position and find a palliative, if not a cure, and I am sure we can count on the cordial co-operation of all of you in this object.

As often happens, under conditions of great economic stress coupled with political upheaval, there has unfortunately been a great increase of crime and terrorist activity in this Province. In the Legislative Council last week the Hon'ble Member in charge of Law and Order stated that the number of dacoities had doubled this year as compared with 1929-30. This is a very serious state of affairs which demands the co-operation of the leaders of all communities with Government officers and especially with the Police in their endeavours to deal with crime. The Police are the servants of the public. They exist for their protection and assistance. If the public wish to be properly served by them, they must assist the Police to carry out their duties. If the public will not come forward and give evidence or if they deliberately withhold information, then it must be presumed that either they are afraid or they condone crime. It is absurd to suggest that daylight crimes witnessed by scores of people, such as that which occurred in Dacca lately, can be perpetrated without some recognising the culprits and bringing them to justice. Conditions are indeed bad where this can take place and I do not hesitate to say definitely that this sort of thing must be stopped. Can any one imagine a more

contemptible and mean act than the robbery at the point of revolvers of a number of old and peace-loving defenceless persons like the Pandits of the Saraswat Samaj? This act alone should be enough to rouse all self-respecting and law-abiding citizens to a sense of their responsibilities.

The very system of society in which you gentlemen move, and indeed your happiness and your security are based upon respect for law and order. I have no doubt that you deplore equally with me these conditions as regards the defiance of authority which at present prevail in Bengal. Peaceful conditions and the rule of law are essential in all systems of orderly Government. I ask you and all leaders of Communities, Local Bodies and Associations to give their co-operation and to show that they will have no part or share in or sympathy with crime.

A welcome sign—although somewhat belated—is the resolution passed the other day by the Congress Working Committee calling upon their followers to discourage incitement, by word or writing, to violent political crime. Such incitement has been constantly uttered in the past, and there is no question that the constant glorification of political murderers has had its effect and must be regarded as in a great measure responsible for the loss of several valuable lives.

I now wish on behalf of Lady Jackson and myself to bid you farewell. We are very grateful for all the courtesy, consideration and kindness we

have invariably received from all in Dacca and Eastern Bengal. I personally deeply appreciate the ready assistance that I have uniformly received from the leaders of the various communities and gentlemen who attend Darbar. Our stay in Dacca has always been most happy and we shall carry away with us nothing but the most pleasant memories of this City and its people.

Farewell and may good fortune be with you.

***His Exoellenoy's Addresses to recolplents
of Badges and Sanads at the Daoca
Darbar on 12th August 1931.***

MR. JYOTISH CHANDRA RAY, I.S.O.,

You have rendered 27 years of service in the Departments of Land Records and Agriculture and by sheer merit have risen to the responsible position of Personal Assistant to the Director of Agriculture, in which capacity you have been of great assistance to successive Directors.

His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to appoint you a Companion of the Imperial Service Order of which I have now the pleasure of presenting to you the Badge.

SARDAR BAHADUR SUBADAR-MAJOR GANESH BAHADUR CHETTRI, M.B.E.,

You have served Government for 35 years, being for the last 17 Indian Officer attached to the Eastern Frontier Rifles, and for the last five Subadar-Major of the Battalion. Throughout your service in the Battalion you have done excellent work and have loyally assisted the British Officers in the maintenance of discipline. In recognition of your services you were awarded the title of Sardar Bahadur in 1928. During the year 1930 when the British Officers were continually away on special duty you ably discharged the added responsibilities which fell on you. In view of your loyal and meritorious service over so long a period you have been admitted to a Membership of the Order of the British Empire.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command I hand to you the Badge of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

RAI SUBESH CHANDRA GUPTA BAHADUR,

You have had 27 years of uniformly meritorious service in the Postal Department and now occupy the responsible position of Deputy Postmaster-General. During the Dacca disturbances in May-June 1930 you rendered excellent service in the maintenance of postal communications and it was mainly through your efforts and example that the inevitable dislocation of postal arrangements was restricted to a minimum.

You were awarded the title of Rai Sahib so recently as January 1930 and your early promotion to the higher title is the measure of your success in administering your Department.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SARAFUDDIN AHMED,

You have been serving Government for some years in the capacity of Assistant Public Prosecutor, Mymensingh, and rendered conspicuous service in connection with the Civil Disobedience movement. You gave valuable assistance to the local officers in the worst days of the movement in Mymensingh and were particularly helpful in communal matters.

KHAN SAHIB HAJI MUHAMMAD EMDAD ALI,

You enjoy the reputation of a man of fine public spirit in Dacca in which you carry on business as a merchant. Your loyalty and readiness to help

Government and your important influence for peace over your co-religionists have earned for you the title of Khan Sahib.

**KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD ISHAQ KHAN
MAJLISH,**

You rendered excellent service to the cause of peace and good order during the Saha-Muhammadan disturbances in the Manikganj subdivision and gave much assistance to Government during the Civil Disobedience movement.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD LUTFAR RAHMAN,

Your tact and resourcefulness contributed in a great measure to the suppression of the Civil Disobedience movement in Tangail. Standing with your superior officer virtually alone against great odds in the subdivision, you combated the beginnings of anarchy in that subdivision and are with him mainly responsible for the present peaceful state of affairs.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD AKRAM,

You are a member of the Patuakhali Bar. You co-operated with the authorities throughout the Civil Disobedience movement, and you have also done commendable work in encouraging and providing for education among Muhammadans.

RAI SAHIB DR. SATISH CHANDRA GHOSH,

You are Assistant Surgeon at Dacca Medical School, where you have earned a high reputation as a Teacher of Surgery. Your work during the Dacca riots in 1930 was most commendable.

RAI SAHIB PABITRA NATH BOSE,

As Inspector of Police in charge of Sherpur Circle, you carried out your duties in connection with the Civil Disobedience movement with commendable energy, without fear of the personal animosity which your action entailed. On transfer to Mymensingh you were attacked and a bomb was thrown into your house fortunately without serious result.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABUL QUASIM KHALILULLAH,

You did specially valuable work as Inspector of Police in connection with the Civil Disobedience movement. It was mainly due to your efforts that the Muhammadan community in your jurisdiction in Mymensingh refrained from joining the anti-Government agitation. Your loyal and faithful services have won for you the distinction conferred upon you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL JABBAR CHAUDHURI,

You have served Government for 21 years and as Inspector in charge of the Patuakhali subdivision you have shown great tact and ability in dealing with the situation arising there out of the recent political agitation. You have enforced respect for law and order and carried out your duties regardless of personal risk. Your loyal and faithful services have merited the distinction conferred upon you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI FAZLUR RAHMAN KHAN,

As a member of the Bengal Medical Service you have a good record of medical and public service extending over a period of 24 years. You were

instrumental in the construction of an Isolation and Zenana Hospital at Sirajganj and in the collection of funds for the building of a senior Madrasah. You did similar good work while at Netrokona. A popular and efficient doctor, you have earned the good opinion of District Officers for your work performed under conditions of great strain.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD EMDAD ALI,

You have done excellent service as Vice-Chairman of the Local Board, Patuakhali, and a Commissioner of the municipality. You have taken a leading part in all local activities and have done your utmost to further the educational and social progress of the Muhammadans of the subdivision. You have at the same time always been ready to co-operate with other communities in schemes for the betterment of the local people. Your influence has always been cast on the side of law and order, and your services recently proved of great help to the local officers in establishing peace in the Patuakhali subdivision.

RAI SAHIB KALIDAS RAY,

You have 30 years of service to your credit and have done valuable work at the Rajshahi farm. As special officer in charge of sugar-cane investigation you have been largely responsible for the rapid spread of cane cultivation in the sugar-cane-growing districts of the province.

RAI SAHIB SURENDBA NATH BASU,

You have been President of the Dilalpur Union Board continuously since 1925. This Board is

conspicuous for its efficient management and devotion to works of public utility. Your propaganda and activity against the Civil Disobedience movement have been of great assistance to the authorities. In recognition of your valuable work, in particular on behalf of village self-government, the title of Rai Sahib has been conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB JNANENDRA NARAYAN SINHA,

As Deputy Superintendent in charge of the Departmental Telegraph Office, Dacca, you displayed meritorious conduct and devotion to duty in the maintenance of telegraphic communications during the Dacca disturbances in May and June 1930.

***His Excellency's Address to Khanum
Saheba Farhat Banu when presenting a
Kaisar-i-Hind Medal to her on 13th
August 1931.***

KHANUM SAHEBA FARHAT BANU,

You have been a pioneer among the ladies of your community in social service and have played a conspicuous part in the work of the Dacca Maternity and Child Welfare Trust. By your eminent services and noble example you have well deserved the honour that has been conferred upon you.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the Second Class for public service in India.

His Excellency's Addresses to recipients of King's Police Medal and to a member of the public who was presented with a gun at the Police Parade, Dacca, on 13th August 1931.

MANINDRA CHANDRA PAL & YAKUB ALI KHAN,

In April 1930 four suspected persons who were being examined at Feni railway station suddenly opened fire on the Police and broke away, wounding a railway employee and a Police Sub-Inspector. You, *Manindra Chandra Pal*, though unarmed, at once seized and clung to a revolver in the hands of one of the assailants. You were shot in the thigh by one of his companions, but nevertheless maintained your hold on the weapon. You, *Yakub Ali Khan*, rushed to Manindra's aid and hit the assailant with a *lathi* and were yourself shot.

Both of you showed conspicuous gallantry in the face of great danger and in spite of severe wounds.

BABU SHIBENDRA NATH SINGH ROY,

In 1929 you rendered material assistance to the police in the capture red-handed of a band of robbers known as Khoka Hari's gang who were actually engaged in the commission of a dacoity in the jurisdiction of Nakashipara police-station in Nadia. By your influence with the local people and by taking the police across country in your car to Te-hatta, you facilitated both the capture of the robbers and the investigation of the case.

His Excellency's Speech at the Police Parade held at Dacca on 13th August 1931.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BENGAL POLICE,

The Annual Parade of the Bengal Police is an event to which in any case I should look forward with keen interest and pleasure. I have always wished that there could be a much bigger assembly of representatives of the police from various parts of the Province on this occasion and that I might have a chance of meeting officers and men from the scattered districts throughout Bengal. I think that such a gathering would serve to bring home to the rank and file attending it a realisation of the strength and homogeneity of the body to which they belong: and that, with the stimulation of a healthy rivalry between contingents, we should be able to foster an *esprit de corps* which would go a long way towards maintaining and improving the discipline, *moral* and efficiency of the force in the districts. Such a proposal is at the moment impracticable. The police are too fully occupied and I fear the expense would hardly be justified in view of the condition of the Provincial Treasury. I hope this may happen when times get better.

There are special reasons for valuing the opportunity of attending the Parade to-day. In all probability this is the last Parade of the Bengal Police over which I shall preside; so I welcome the opportunity this occasion offers me of expressing my appreciation of the work of the Bengal Police.

during the last four years and a half and especially the last year which has been one of exceptional difficulty and strain.

I was not present at the last year's Parade which took place at a time when the Civil Disobedience movement was very active in this country. Fitting reference was then made by Sir Hugh Stephenson to the way the police in Bengal had stood between the people of this Province and the complete anarchy and chaos which the success of that movement would have entailed. I am well aware of the strain to which the Police were subjected at that time and of the extra duties and responsibilities imposed upon them by reason of that organised attempt to undermine authority and shatter the prestige of Government and its servants. I realize also that your time of trial did not by any means end with the settlement of March last: and that last year's deliberate loosening of the forces of disorder has left behind it the inevitable train of violence and disrespect for constituted authority: this, at a time when economic pressure is bearing hardly upon the people, creates conditions conducive to the commission of crimes against property. Your difficulties are also increased by the aftermath of ill-feeling deliberately and wantonly raised against you during the campaign of last year, and your information system is hampered by the interference to which the chaukidari system was then subjected. I know that, in spite of the settlement, these things are still continuing. And I am not surprised, therefore—though I greatly deplore it—that the figures for the year 1930 show a grave increase in the incidence of "serious crime" and that the figures

for the first six months of the current year show a further deterioration. The police establishment of this Province was designed and calculated to meet what experience had shown to be the ordinary demands of the Province, with a small reserve for such occasional emergencies as could be reasonably anticipated,—such as local outbreaks of communal friction or industrial disorder and the like. The force was not designed to meet at one and the same time the ordinary demands of the Province, greatly enhanced by economic and other causes, and an attempt at political revolution on a large scale. It is not then surprising that, with much of their attention diverted to self-defence and the defence of ordered Government against a campaign expressly directed to its subversion, the police in the districts of this Province should have momentarily lost that control on crime which they had retained up to the beginning of the Civil Disobedience movement last year. Unfortunately we know that the control which it takes but a few months to loosen cannot with equal ease be regained. The figures for the last two months have been more reassuring, but the decrease may be only seasonal. In any case every effort must be made to prevent the spread of crime. Government appreciate the position; they considered that the numbers of the force needed strengthening to meet this growing menace to the peace and tranquility in the Province. It was with great satisfaction that I heard that the Legislative Council had not hesitated to respond to the statement of the position so clearly put in by the Hon'ble Mr. Prentice and voted the necessary funds for the additional force considered imperative.

For the second time in a decade, the Bengal Police have been faced with a political crisis of the first magnitude, and on this occasion as in 1922 they have come through the ordeal with credit and distinction. Speaking generally, the force have borne the brunt of an unparalleled campaign of slander and harassment with admirable loyalty and restraint. It speaks much for the discipline of the force that in a year like 1930 the tale of judicial punishments has not increased, while the record of departmental punishments has decreased by nearly 14 per cent. Figures of recruitment are better both in themselves and in respect of the increasing number of local recruits. In spite of social pressure, threats, and specious inducements, desertions and resignations are below the figures for 1927 and 1928. The health of the force has naturally reacted to the strain to which all members of the force have been subjected and there have been more admissions to the hospitals. Government have done what was in their power to remedy, or at all events to alleviate, these inevitable hardships, both by increasing the strength of the force as an emergency measure and by authorising special *bhatta* for those upon whom the brunt of fighting the Civil Disobedience movement fell. These measures and the increase of pay sanctioned in 1928 have doubtless played their part in reassuring the force and diffusing a spirit of contentment even in difficult times like the present, but my own confident belief is that their steadfastness at the time of trial owes still more to the traditional loyalty of the force and to the qualities of leadership displayed by officers of all ranks. Of these I cannot speak

too highly. Faced with a murderous conspiracy which has in the course of 18 months cost the Bengal Police 10 gallant lives (to say nothing of other Services and people unconnected with Government service) and has spread its tentacles to other Provinces, neither the force as a whole nor the special branches concerned in investigating anarchical crime have flinched. It is 12 months almost to the day since an outrage of this kind deprived you of your Inspector-General. In Francis John Lowman the Province lost an energetic and industrious officer, an admirable policeman, and one who asked nothing better than to be a friend to European and Indian alike. Similar brutal murders at Chittagong, Feni, Midnapore and Chandpur have cost the police lives which the service can ill-afford to lose. This is a position of affairs which lowers the prestige of Bengal in the eyes of the world and cannot but react unfavourably upon the Province and upon India as a whole.

The necessity of the Eastern Frontier Rifles as a reserve of power for emergencies has been amply demonstrated during the past year and their services have been called upon in Calcutta, Chittagong, Midnapore and other parts of the Province. On all occasions they have carried out their duties with exemplary efficiency and restraint. It is quite clear that the number of these military police available in Bengal under present conditions is inadequate and during the past 18 months we have on several occasions had to borrow from a neighbouring Province the services of an analogous body of men, the Assam Rifles,—and I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging publicly

the debt we owe to the Government of Assam for their willing loan of these fine detachments and to the detachments themselves for their efficiency and exemplary conduct while in Bengal. I cannot close my reference to the Eastern Frontier Rifles without alluding to the departure of your Commandant, on leave preparatory to retirement. In Lieut.-Colonel MacPherson you have lost an officer who had put in 18 years' service with the Battalion and was universally recognised as an able and experienced Commandant. The Battalion is, however, fortunate in having at hand an officer of Lieut.-Colonel Dallas Smith's standing and experience to take command. I must also congratulate Sardar Bahadur Subadar-Major Ganesh Bahadur Chettri who was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in the recent Birthday honours.

I cannot end my remarks without reference to the 80,000 dafadars and chunkidars who constitute the village police in Bengal. For them it has been a difficult year: their lot is hard enough at the best of times, and one would have thought that they at least might have been spared the harassment which fell to the lot of the police generally and that they might have been left to perform their traditional and necessary duties in peace. Far from that, I regret to say, the village chunkidars have in some districts been singled out for special persecution, doubtless because they were more defenceless than the regular police, and have been subjected to every kind of pressure, not even falling short of murder, to seduce them from their duty. I am glad to learn that, taking them as a whole, the village police have been able loyally to stick to their posts. They have an

important part to play in the campaign against crime—they know, or at least they should know, who are the bad characters in their villages: they alone can exercise a satisfactory check on the movements of such persons. If properly and fairly backed up in their respective villages they can perform their duties well and usefully.

And now I have come to the end of what I have to say: it only remains for me to offer Mr. Craig and his officers and men of all branches my congratulations on the way in which they have come through a period of exceptional strain: and let me add my special congratulations to the Barrackpore Emergency Force who succeeded in winning the Cumming Inter-District Challenge Shield: I regard it as a good sign that in spite of increased work and responsibility officers and men have been able to maintain their keenness on athletics.

I must also congratulate those to whom I am to have the pleasure of presenting the King's Police Medal and the other recipients of rewards to-day.

Once more let me express to all ranks of the Bengal Police my personal gratitude for the admirable way they have played their part in the general administration of this Province. I fully appreciate how much I owe to their loyalty and devotion to duty during this four-and-a-half years of my not too easy term of office.

His Excellency's Address at the Dacca University Convocation on 14th August 1931.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is four years almost to the day since I presided over my first Convocation as Chancellor. I remember I then expressed the hope that I should be able to help the University to progress and prosper during my term of office. I have done my best, but unfortunately I have always been faced with that financial stringency from which Bengal has never, as far as I know, been free and which has made it difficult to assure that degree of development and progress which we should all like to have seen.

I am, therefore, the more deeply touched by the warmth of the reference with which the Vice-Chancellor opened his address. I can assure you that my interest for this University required no artificial stimulation; I fully appreciated amongst the responsibilities which it would be my lot to carry, by no means the least important was the duties attached to the Chancellorships of the Universities. I shall certainly carry away with me the happiest memories of my connection with the University of Dacca and I shall watch its fortunes with solicitude, if from a distance.

The University year now closing has been full of exceptional problems, and it would have been too much to hope that the University itself could altogether have escaped its share of the current difficulties. The fall in numbers to which you, Sir,

have made reference has been a feature common to all educational institutions in the Province, European and Indian; the fruits partly, no doubt, of political agitation but mainly, I am convinced, of the economic distress through which we are passing; the decrease may well have been accentuated here by the deplorable communal rioting through which the city and neighbourhood of Dacca passed last year. To say nothing of other disadvantages, such a decrease means a loss of fees and a fall in the income of the University but I hope that, with a return to more prosperous times, my successor at all events will see again that steady rise in numbers which has been so satisfactory a feature of this University's short life. I am at least relieved to see that the decrease is confined almost entirely to those who seek ordinary degrees and that the numbers of those taking the three-year honours courses and of the post-graduate students are as yet unaffected; this means that the wastage—regrettable as it is—has been reduced to a minimum.

The number of our lady students, has been maintained, and this is a matter for gratification. No one could wish to see an employment market already overstocked with male B.A.'s flooded with girl graduates, but it is obvious that in India there is opening a wide field of activity for women in the professions of education and of medicine, and these professions demand the very best that our Universities can turn out.

It was a matter of keen satisfaction and pleasure to me to be able to accept the recommendation of the Executive Council to extend the appointment of Mr. Langley whose original five-year term of

office as Vice-Chancellor expired during the course of the year. We are fortunate in the prospect of having at the helm for another three years one who has so clearly demonstrated his ability and devotion in all that concerns the welfare of the University. I would like also to take this opportunity of welcoming Dr. Fück, whose accession to the Staff as Head of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies cannot but be a source of added strength. Dr. Basu's many years of excellent service to the University as Reader in Mathematics have been rewarded by appointment as Professor; the University has always guarded very jealously the reputation of its Professorships and has refused to bestow the title upon anyone whose attainments were not of the highest. This is an admirable practice and one specially worthy of commendation in a country which has at times been inclined to be too generous in its use of the title; but in the present case there can be no question that Professor Basu's promotion is well deserved and I most heartily congratulate him on it.

The year has also witnessed a change in the Treasurership of the University. We are all profoundly grateful to the retiring Treasurer, Rai Sasanka Coomar Ghose Bahadur, for the able and devoted way in which, in spite of many other calls upon his time, he has carried out the duties of the post; we are fortunate to have secured in his place so sound an administrator as Mr. Shahabuddin. It is a welcome proof of the status of the University that such able men are willing to come forward and fill these important but exacting appointments.

You, Sir, have made reference in your speech to the University's need for further financial assistance from Government and I personally am greatly impressed with the force of some of the arguments you have employed to emphasize the special claims of the Universities to a generous share of the public funds at a time of impending constitutional change. It has been well said that the hall mark of good public finance is to be wisely economical in the less needful things in order to be wisely liberal in things that are most needful. At the moment, however, Government are in the unfortunate position of having to be wisely economical in *all* things—whether “more” or “less” needful. For the present, I understand Government have been unable to undertake any additional commitments in respect of the Dacca University. This is not to say that Government have turned a deaf ear to the requests of the University; some of the schemes submitted by the University have received administrative sanction and are held up merely by that want of funds which prevents us, for the time being, undertaking any new schemes in the Province; others will be sympathetically examined so as to be ready, if approved, for the day when funds will again be available. In the mean time, as it is most desirable that present activities should not be curtailed, and equally important that the reserve which the University is fortunate enough to possess should not be unduly depleted, the University on their side must do their utmost to balance their budget by other means,—by rigid economy in expenditure.

I could well wish that in my last year as Chancellor I could envisage a more cheerful prospect in

the immediate future: but I have at least this cause for satisfaction,—that the foundations of the University are now deeply laid: its popularity justifies its existence, and we have every right to feel that provided all goes well in India a prosperous future is assured for it. Depressions come in cycles, and when the present depression passes,—as pass it must,—the University will be among the first to reflect the new life that will pulse through the country.

When I look back, as I am tempted to do, on the four years that have elapsed since I first met you as your Chancellor, it seems to me that the greatest event in a period of steady and peaceful progress within the University has been the building and opening of the Moslem Hall. When I first came here the scheme was on the point of being taken up, and I then expressed my gratification that a University founded largely at the express wish of the Mussalmans of Eastern Bengal, was to have a separate Hall for its Moslem students. That Hall has come into being, and it is for the Staff and the students in it to create round it the great traditions which can and should, in a residential University like this, exercise such a potent influence upon the student community. In extending, as we all do, our best wishes to the Provost and members of the new Hall, may I repeat the note of warning which I felt it incumbent upon me to utter at the opening ceremony the other day. You come to a University for more than attendance at lectures and the study of books: you come to get a liberal education,—which means to meet all sorts and conditions of men, and to come in contact with fresh ideas and new

outlooks on life. The advantages of College life and of a University education will be to a great extent lost if the mere fact that you live in separate halls,—the Hindus in this one and the Mussalmans in that,—prevents that free intercourse to which I have referred.

Another broad feature of University life during the past four years to which I look back with satisfaction is the growth of the University Training Corps. This body is now at full strength and I hope that its members, by regular attendance at parades and, especially, at camp, will profit to the full from the advantages which this military training gives them. The indications are that in the near future Indians will be called upon to take upon their shoulders a greater and ever-increasing share in the internal defence of the country and the training corps of the Universities should be, as they are in England, one of the sources from which future officers can be drawn. Meanwhile I am glad to hear good accounts of this University's Corps: its efficiency and regularity are due, I know, in great measure to the tact and exertions of Captain Moseley. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his services and I am sorry that, in accordance with an unfortunate but necessary military practice, we are soon to lose the benefit of his advice and help. I also gladly take this opportunity of acknowledging the keenness and spirit of ready co-operation shown by the students themselves in attending parade, and maintaining discipline during the troubles of the past year.

It is a matter of great regret to me that during my Chancellorship it has not been financially

possible to do more towards developing agricultural research in the University. More than once the matter has been carefully considered by Government at my instance. I am personally convinced of its complete desirability in such a purely agricultural area as Eastern Bengal. It is only the economic position that makes it absolutely impossible and the main scheme must, I fear, be postponed for the present. A start has been made with the help of a grant from the Government of India, supplemented by the University from its own funds, and I am only sorry that the Government of Bengal have not been able to give the assistance which they would like to give towards the establishment of departments of Bio-Chemistry and Agriculture. I am confident that these must come in course of time.

Reviewing the period as a whole, I am sure we can justly claim that the last four years have been years of quiet progress in the University. In research, in its output of men for the public services, and in athletics, it has made for itself no mean name.

I should like to conclude my remarks with a word to the young men and women whose day this is and in whose honour, mainly, we are gathered at this ceremony. You have this day taken your degrees and I congratulate you very warmly on that fact and wish you every success for the future. You are not at the end of your labours, indeed you are but at the beginning; all that you have hitherto experienced and performed is but the preparation for your real work in life. And here, I am very much afraid, many of you will find yourselves faced

with an obstacle at the very outset. I fully appreciate the exceptional difficulties which in nine cases out of ten face the young graduate when he seeks to find employment suitable, as he thinks, to his attainments and training. These difficulties have been enormously increased by the present economic depression, and unfortunately no one can point to any even probable solution of the problem. I would, however, remind you that one of the first conditions of success in any field of work is the possession of initiative and ability to strike out new lines, and it is just these qualities of initiative and critical imagination which a University education should have enabled you to develop. Students who thoughtlessly enter professions which are already overcrowded are ensuring for themselves a grave risk of failure in their struggle for existence. I am convinced that, even in the present difficult situation, there must be in Bengal many opportunities for the development of local enterprises and the improvement of small local industries. You cannot all hope to find places in the learned professions; but I am one of those who believe that a University education is an asset in any walk of life and that even if you merely return to your native villages you will be able to make practical use of the greater experience and breadth of vision which should have come to you as the result of your University career. Employment does not depend entirely on existing industries; as a result of University education and research industries can be created, such for example, as the great chemical dye industry in Germany which was a direct outcome of work within the Universities. Apart from

this, there is the service which you can render to the villagers. In times like these, specially, with flood and distress on all hands,—there is always a need for young men of education and character to lead the villagers in social and material self-help. Indeed some measure of responsibility rests upon you in these matters, because most of you have enjoyed your training and education here almost entirely at the cost of the public. The fees paid by students of this University for their education cover little more than one-tenth part of the actual cost of that education; the remainder is provided either by public generosity or from the public revenues, and there is much to be said for the view that the acceptance of this training implies that those who accept it will return to the community in some way or other a reasonable value for what the community has given. You may not be able individually to do much but the cumulative effect would be great, and there are few things that would so redound to the credit and good name of the University than that its sons should earn a reputation for social service and help to the people of the villages. For, as was said by one of the most liberal-minded men whom England ever gave to India, Lord Canning, in an address to the newly-formed University of Calcutta,—“distinction is not always the reward of all, but it is in every man’s power to do something, however little, for the public good.”

In a few months’ time I shall have completed my term of office in Bengal and I shall then relinquish the Chancellorship of the Universities of Calcutta and Dacca. I am glad to think that there have been

opportunities when I could take a direct interest in matters affecting the welfare of the Universities. I hope my personal intervention may have been of some service. All the time I have never been able to forget the problem of finding occupation for the young men who graduated at the Universities. The outlook must often appear so hopeless. Hopelessness at that moment of a man's life is the worst thing that could befall him. Hopelessness breeds discontent and discontent breeds disloyalty. What a totally different atmosphere would prevail if even a 50 per cent. chance of getting some employment existed. A solution would come no doubt with a rapid development of the country which would bring prosperity. This will surely come, provided there is good-will and a general co-operation of effort by all. I shall watch anxiously for the day, as I well realise that the Universities can never give of their best to the service of Bengal till the advantage of their teachings can be made better use of than they are at present.

I am very grateful for the uniform courtesy and general good-will which has been afforded to me by all connected with this University and I pray that the blessings of Almighty God may rest upon it.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Farewell
Addresses presented at Government
House, Dacca, on 15th August 1931.***

COMMISSIONERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY, MEMBERS OF
THE DISTRICT BOARD AND DISTRICT MOSLEM
FEDERATION,

GENTLEMEN,

I am greatly touched by the cordial terms in which on behalf of the important and representative bodies to which you belong you have referred to my efforts to serve the best interests of the Province during my term of office in Bengal. I well remember the generous reception accorded to us when, just over four years ago, we set foot for the first time in your historic city. I was then encouraged to express the hope that the good-will so early extended to us would not grow less as acquaintance developed. I gladly acknowledge that my confidence has been fully justified, and if, in the intervening years, we have got to know each other better, I can assure you and through you the people of Dacca that, so far at least as we are concerned familiarity has bred respect and affection and that now, when the time has come to say good-bye, we feel that we are leaving behind many good friends.

Gentlemen of the municipality—you have referred to the successful completion of the Waterworks Improvement Scheme, and I may say that I think you are to be congratulated on having brought that much-needed improvement to a successful issue before the present financial collapse which might well have made progress with it extremely difficult. Of importance also from a sanitary point of view is

the Act successfully piloted through the Bengal Legislative Council by Rai Keshub Chandra Banerjee Bahadur, in the session just closed, the effect of which will be to enable the municipality to make more efficient and extended use of their sewerage system by giving them the power to require connections to be made with it. The Rai Bahadur is to be congratulated on a useful piece of legislation, and I believe that I am right in saying that both this and the Waterworks Improvement Scheme owed much, in their preliminary stages, to the labours of the present Hon'ble Minister for Education when he was Chairman of the Municipality.

Reference has been made in several of the addresses to the need for pushing on with the Dacca-Narainganj Road Improvement Project. As you are probably aware, the grant of Rs. 4½ lakhs mentioned in the District Board address as sanctioned from the Road Fund for this project has been raised by the Government of India to Rs. 5½ lakhs so as to make provision for the reconstruction of the "rickety iron suspension bridge" to which the Chairman of Municipality has referred. The estimates submitted unfortunately exceed even this greater sum, but it has been decided by Government not to hold up the whole project on that account, but to make a start with work on the road and bridge at all events upto the sum sanctioned. And in view of the havoc which might have been caused by the present floods if the work of reconstruction had been taken up earlier, we may, perhaps, after all consider ourselves fortunate in not having had the work actually in hand before this. I hope, however, that now there will be no avoidable delay.

I wish that I could say something as encouraging about the Dacca-Aricha Railway Project. It is nearly 40 years since the local demand for such a railway came to notice and as the matter is mentioned in all three addresses to which I have listened this morning and has figured in almost every address of the kind that has been presented to a Governor during the last 15 years, there can, I think, be no doubt about the strength and universality of the local desire for this railway. There are, however, serious difficulties still to be overcome,—technical and financial,—greatest of all just now is the financial difficulty: the scheme, as you know, is calculated to cost over two crores of rupees: and though, of course, all of this would not have to be spent at once, almost all of it would have to be laid out before the railway could be expected to give a pice in the nature of a return. I am afraid that at the moment it may be difficult to persuade the Railway Department to embark such a sum on expenditure not of an immediately remunerative character, but the scheme, I can assure you, is very far from being shelved, and the fact that local opinion is so unequivocally in favour of pursuing the project is a matter which must necessarily carry great weight with the authorities with whom the decision rests.

Reference has also been made to various problems more or less intimately connected with the fate of the Buriganga and Dhalleswari rivers.

So far as the Dolai Khal is concerned, a scheme for canalization has received administrative approval, but when I tell you that the estimated cost of the project is Rs. 13 lakhs, you will readily appreciate that there is no probability of its finding a

place in the forthcoming year's budget. I agree with you, however, that this is an urgent project which should receive earliest possible attention.

As regards the silting of the Buriganga and the general deterioration of this river and the Dhalleswari, these are due, I am afraid, to natural causes against which it is an uphill and costly struggle to wage war. Government are advised that for technical reasons dredging operations are of no permanent value so far as the Buriganga is concerned; dredging, if adopted, would have to be repeated every few years and the expense of this would prove prohibitive. Any considerable all-round improvement of the Dhalleswari and Buriganga at a cost that would be reasonable seems to be out of the question, but what may be done, and what is being done, is to prolong the lives of these rivers for as long as possible in a state fit to meet, partially at all events, the requirements of the local population. The mere establishment at Dacca of a "river division" would not help us much in the absence of funds to implement the suggestions of the "specially trained officer" for whom some of you have asked; and this, again, must, I think, await the time when we have our Waterways Trust in Bengal. In the meantime, as there seems to be some misapprehension, let me assure you that it is not correct to say that river-training operations have been suspended: the training of these rivers was carried out departmentally till about two years ago when the work was made over to the steamer companies who, I am advised, have since then performed the work efficiently under the supervision of the Irrigation Department.

Gentlemen of the Moslem Federation—I welcome your assurance that the Moslem community is ready and determined to take its legitimate share in the making of a peaceful and prosperous India under the forthcoming constitutional changes. As I remarked the other day at the opening ceremony of the splendid new Hall which has been built for the Moslem students of the University, your community has its contribution to make to the prosperity and progress of the Province: it is absurd to think that either the Province as a whole or (in the long run) any community in it can progress while one great component element of the population is in a backward state, educationally or economically. I shall certainly, as you request in your address, continue to follow with sympathy your fortunes and your aspirations when my time comes to leave India.

As regards the representation of the Moslems of Bengal on the Round Table Conference and the “unequivocal demands” of your community formulated at the All-India Moslem Conference at Delhi in January 1929 and reiterated in the recent Conference held in Dacca, you will not expect me to give you any detailed answer. The former is a matter in which my powers were confined to remonstrance and suggestion—while the latter is the subject matter of the discussions which are shortly to be resumed in London. I would, however, in passing, take this opportunity to voice the disappointment we must all feel at the news recently received that, for reasons which have not yet been made public, one of the political parties in this country has once more felt compelled to hold aloof from the discussions thereby impairing to some

extent their representative character, though not, I hope, affecting the determination of those who have interpreted the call of patriotism differently to pursue their deliberations to an issue satisfactory and honourable to all concerned.

These, however, are All-India,—not to say Imperial—matters, and in the present delicate position of affairs I feel I can more usefully pass on to the points in your address which bear more closely on provincial interests. You draw my attention to what you describe as “the abnormally low proportion of Muhammadans in the judicial service and to the few holding positions of trust and responsibility,” and you ask that due consideration may be given to communal considerations in the posting of officers to the charge of districts and subdivisions.

So far as the judicial service goes, the law requires that the High Court shall nominate to be munsiffs such persons as it thinks fit and Government shall appoint the persons so nominated. This is a matter, therefore, for the High Court, but I should like to say that the proportion of Muhammadans nominated by the High Court and appointed by Government during the last five years exceeds 33 per cent. On the Magisterial side all the Muhammadans, who have been classified as fit to hold charge of subdivisions, are at the moment in such charges: indeed, Muhammadans hold almost precisely the number of subdivisions that their present proportion of the total cadre of the Bengal Civil Service entitles them to hold,—namely, 27 per cent. As regards the charge of districts and other executive “listed post” appointments, postings are made by virtue of seniority and merit from a list

of Deputy Magistrates who have been declared fit to hold such charges. The highest Muhámmadan on the list at present has held, and is retiring from, the important position of Additional Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta and the next Muhammadan on the list has been appointed to succeed him: the third Muhammadan on the list is not yet sufficiently high to fill a vacancy in a district charge, but I have probably said enough to show that your very natural desire to see Muhammadan officers holding positions of importance in the districts is within measurable distance of being fulfilled, thanks to the improving qualifications of the community as a whole. I have gone into this matter to-day at some length because, I know, from repeated questions in the Legislative Council and from conversations which I have had from time to time with leaders of your community, that there is still a feeling abroad that the claims of Muhammadans to posts in Government service and the claims of Muhammadans already in service to a fair proportion of the promotions, are disregarded. The position, I admit, will never be completely satisfactory until, by the spread of education and other advantages, there is equal opportunity for all. At the same time I am most anxious that no community should feel that its claims to consideration are neglected by Government. Consistently with the maintenance of a proper standard of efficiency, Government's policy is to secure, as far as possible, adequate representation—not necessarily proportional representation—in Government service for all communities in the Province.

I am particularly touched by the kindly reference which you, gentlemen, of the Moslem Federation, have made to Lady Jackson's interest in humanitarian activities and in all that tends to the social betterment of the people of this Province. You mention in particular her solicitude for the Maternity and Child Welfare Trust, which is carrying on such an excellent work for infant welfare and young mothers here in Dacca. I am glad to find that the work of the Trust is appreciated by your Federation: it is a work in which all communities can and do join on an equal basis of friendly co-operation for the common good.

Gentlemen, "Good-bye" is the most difficult of all words to say. From the bodies whom you represent and from all the communities of this city we have received such invariable courtesy and kindness—even at times when political or communal feeling ran high—that the word comes from us with special difficulty to-day. But if to-morrow we leave Dacca with little prospect of returning, we both feel that you have by your kindness enriched us for the remainder of our lives with many happy memories and I do not despair of renewing in England friendships which we have formed out here when, as must surely be, duty or pleasure brings some of you to our shores. On Lady Jackson's behalf and my own I thank you all and bid you good-bye.

***His Exoellenoy's Address at the Speech
Day of the Vlotoria School, Kurseong,
on 7th October 1931.***

MR. HEADMASTER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND
BOYS OF THE VICTORIA SCHOOL,

I am very glad to have the opportunity which Headmaster and Governing Body have afforded me to-day of making the personal acquaintance of the Staff and students of the Victoria School. Your fortunes and your activities are brought to my notice from time to time by the Department and in other ways, but this is the first time I have ascended Dow Hill. My own old School, Harrow, is situated on a hill—quite a famous hill in its way—but I am afraid it cannot claim to such beautiful surroundings as yours and I hope that you boys appreciate your good fortune in passing your school days in such a healthy and delightful spot.

Most of you, I suppose, look forward to taking up careers in India and most of you, therefore, must in the ordinary way expect to pass the greater part of your life in the plains. It is then that you will realise—what now, perhaps some of you are inclined to take for granted,—how happy were those days of freedom at once from the dust and heat of the plains and from the worries and responsibilities of life and will remember with affection your old school in the “High Hills.”

I have listened with great interest to the Headmaster's address and I shall have something to say presently on some of the points which he has

made. First of all, however, I wish to take this occasion of offering him and Mrs. Hessing on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government of Bengal a hearty welcome to this Province and to this school. Mr. Hessing comes to us with high qualifications and the best credentials. We all wish him a happy and pleasant time here and we feel every confidence that he will carry his responsibilities with success. I have the greatest admiration for the educational work which has been done by my countrymen in India, for all communities in this great land. That work, whether it is performed by professing missionaries or by those who like yourselves would not class themselves as such, is nevertheless a mission and demands in those who take it up a large element of what I believe is termed "the missionary spirit." We, in the old country, carry a responsibility to our compatriots in India,—the Domiciled and Anglo-Indian Communities,—and I feel very strongly that those who devote their lives to the work of the education of these communities are playing a large part in helping us to discharge this responsibility. I say this, gentlemen, because I know that those of you, especially, who come out for this work from Home have special difficulties to cope with; but whether you come here from Home or from India, I want you to feel that we value your work and regard it as of growing importance. You have excellent material to work on: I hope you will keep your courage high in the difficult times through which we are passing and so mould and temper that material that it will be able to "take the strain" without cracking, and so contribute its part to the future of the

country of which it forms a valuable element. In my judgment, the most valuable gift that you can give your pupils is the gift of self-reliance. It is no easy task that I set before you, but I am sure you will agree with me that if the community which is mainly represented here to-day is to hold its own and make its contribution in the India of the future, self-reliance must be its principal asset. To the attainment of this quality there may be many contributory factors: a sound (but not necessarily a showy) education is one,—a most important one. Organised games provide another. Scouting and the cadet corps can play an important part. The cultivation of manly hobbies can also do much. I feel strongly that all your activities should keep this end in view. From a purely academic point of view the generality of boys of the Domiciled and Anglo-Indian Community must of necessity be handicapped as compared with the graduates whom other communities, with larger resources to draw upon, can turn out year after year. A sound education you must undoubtedly give them: without that they will perish: without that they can have no self-reliance:—but it is probably not primarily on the academic field that the Domiciled Community will take its stand. It is by character based on a sound education,—by self-reliance and reliability—that the community will hold its own. A strengthening in your pupils of this characteristic of the British stock must prove of inestimable benefit to them in after-life.

The Headmaster's report struck me as more than usually interesting, disclosing as it did the impressions of one who has only recently arrived

in India and whose experience of schools has hitherto, I believe, been confined to those of England. I am glad to see that he has come here with definite views but also with an open mind. I fully endorse the very interesting remarks which he has made about the true aims of education. Stupidity and ignorance are certainly not assets, and no amount of "bull-dog tenacity" will make up for the lack of a good groundwork of that kind of knowledge which can only be acquired in the classroom. I understand that when the Victoria School was founded, just over a half a century ago, its avowed object was to supply "A good plain English education suited to the requirements of boys leaving school at 16 years of age in order to follow some practical calling." I am by no means sure that that should not still be your aim, but I fully appreciate that to attain this end your curriculum must now-a-days be wider than the "English, Arithmetic, and the elements of Mathematics, Geography, History and Drawing" which were considered sufficient for the purpose 50 years ago. There has in fact been a great development since those days: the range of the subjects taught here has been much enlarged, and I listened with interest and a good deal of sympathy to the Headmaster's plea for a curriculum that would take boys higher than the Senior Cambridge, and keep them a year longer at school. I realise the difficulties which parents are in many cases experiencing just now as regards education charges, but there is obviously great force in the Headmaster's contention that in these days of a congested market and increasing competition, your boys must

be better, not worse, equipped to enter upon the struggle of life. The extra year at school is, I think, primarily a matter for the parents: and I commend the Headmaster's suggestion to their serious attention: but for my part I can assure you, Headmaster, that any proposals which you may have to make in this regard will be most carefully considered by the Department. I appreciate also what the Headmaster has said about the need for a new Science Laboratory. That need has been admitted by the Department and the scheme for its construction has the approval of Government. But, as you know, funds are short and we have been unable for some time to undertake any new schemes, however attractive or desirable. I think, however, that I may say that this scheme only awaits the return of happier times. The Headmaster also mentions a Swimming Bath: I should have thought you would already have had one. If we can only give you the one, I wonder which you would ask for first—the swimming bath or the laboratory?

So much for the academic side of your educational system here. Turning to what I have always regarded as at least as important in the building up, not merely of health, but also of character,—the use that is made of the “out-of-school” hours of the boys,—I have nothing but praise both for what I already knew and what I have seen since coming here to-day. Your scouts I have met on several occasions and look forward to meeting again in the competition at the end of this month, when I shall be interested to see whether they can repeat their success of the past two years. I was much impressed by the general smartness and steadiness

on parade displayed by the Cadets: and I look forward to seeing before I go away this afternoon some of the fruits of the Hobbies Club which, I believe, is doing excellent work in various directions. Your Headmaster, I am glad to see, is an enthusiast for organised games and appreciates their value in the curriculum.

I was glad to hear from the Headmaster of your success in games and sports. Games must always play an important part in the life of any well-run and well-organised school. It is here that boys learn the lessons which may be gained through success or failure. The greatest test of sportsmanship is when a contest is won or lost by the smallest margin. The result shows up both equally the victor and the loser and often the loser deserves and gets as much applause as the winner. The world loves a good loser, but it has no use for one who is obviously sorry for himself in defeat. It is a great thing to be able to take defeat without rancour or depression. One often sees in games a side, anticipating defeat, resort to rough or foul play. This means the losing side are sorry for themselves and become disheartened and resentful. Every man is busy from his youth up with a struggle which he views as a game or a fight according to his mood or age. It is a contest in which he is always engaged. When things do not go well, he is greatly tempted to be sorry for himself and to blame someone or something for his ill-success. This brings into being that unsatisfactory creature, a man labouring under a permanent sense of grievance, convinced that he has against him the hand of every man and even the stars in their courses. Self-pity is

something to be rigorously avoided. It does not go with good sportsmanship. It distorts all perspective. Perhaps the best way of getting over the trouble of being sorry for oneself is to be sorry for other people.

There is only one more subject on which I think I should say a word this afternoon, but it is an important one. We are on the eve of important constitutional changes in India; what exactly they will be it is not for me here and to-day to suggest, but it is clear that they will be far-reaching in character and scope. The Anglo-Indian Community should, and I hope will, play a part in the new conditions as in the old. There is room for Anglo-Indians in the public services of the Province, but I am afraid it is a fact that Anglo-Indian boys are not entering the public services as they should. In India it seems unusual to find children of any community who consider at a sufficiently early age what their career is to be after they leave school. Boys, rather naturally, progress happily through their school life with little thought for what the future may hold in store for them, and it is often only at the end of their career at school that they realise that after school comes work—that the one is but the preparation for the other. I do not mean to suggest too early a specialisation in the boy's education; a good general education is the necessary groundwork for any career in life and in a school of this kind you cannot go much further than that. I think, however, that boys and parents should look ahead; I am sure they would be well advised seriously to begin considering this question of careers some years before the school-leaving age

is reached. Especially is this so, if, as I hope, some of them intend to compete for service under Government.

And now I must not keep you further. I would only repeat that it has been a great pleasure to me and to Lady Jackson to visit Kurseong to-day and to attend this School Speech Day. I offer my heartiest congratulations to those who have passed their public examinations and to the prize-winners in to-day's list; I offer also my condolences to those who have not been so fortunate; I have a fellow-feeling for the latter as I well remember thinking that the examiners were unduly biassed against me in the school, though I found them reasonably sympathetic on the playing fields.

The Victoria School has a good name and a long career of useful work to its credit. I wish the school an era of successful development under the guidance of its new Headmaster.

His Excellency's Speech at the Darjeeling Club on 30th October 1931.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity you have given me through your kind invitation to dine here to-night of meeting so many gentlemen of this district on the eve of my final departure from Darjeeling. I am grateful to you for the kind way in which you have proposed my health, though the generous terms in which you have done so cause me some embarrassment and I find it difficult to make a suitable reply.

The occasion recalls to my memory a similar kindness which you extended to me when I arrived for the first time as Governor at this station. I stood before you then untried, yet hopeful, though not without anxiety, in view of the responsibilities which the post of Head of the Government of Bengal imposed. I was much encouraged by an assurance of your friendly support which, I most gratefully acknowledge, has always been most generously accorded.

I miss some well-known faces of gentlemen who were present on that occasion and whose friendship I had learnt to value. It was, I know, a great shock to all who knew him when we heard of the death of Captain Mackie. He was a deservedly popular figure, a fine sportsman and highly respected by all who knew him.

The President, on the occasion to which I refer, was one whose friendship we all valued and he, alas, is also no longer with us. Colonel Little's loss was a severe blow not only to his friends but to the

whole district. During my term of office there have been other changes also : we miss, to-night, the faces of many who have left the district on retirement,—Scarth, Fred. Partridge, the Domineys, Macey, Oruikshank, Christeson—their names are almost “household words” up here. They had all done a great deal, one way or another, for Darjeeling and their memory will be kept green.

I carefully noted the points which you, Sir, raised in your speech. Government realise that communications in this district are of vital importance and I think I can assure you that your wishes in this respect shall be met as far as is possible having due regard to cost by Government.

As regards opening the road to the Church and Gymkhana Club, I personally should like to see this done, but this is really a municipal matter. You are all aware that there are some difficulties as regards the children and the parking of cars, but it may be possible to overcome these. However, in view of your anxiety to get to Church, perhaps the road might be opened on Sunday mornings !

As regards proceed orders for motor-cars between Ghum and Sukna, I realise that the present system which costs money is not altogether satisfactory, but I have heard it praised as often as I have heard it blamed. Personally, I think the road, as long as the railway continues to run on it, is dangerous and that some control of traffic must be maintained.

As regards politics, your remarks were, I think, commendably short and to the point. I doubt if this occasion is one for a long discourse on politics, though in these times you may reasonably expect me to say something.

The occurrences of the last two days have further emphasised the gravity of the situation which exists in connection with terrorist organisation and activity. I am well aware, and so is the Government, that there is a strong feeling that the delay in dealing with this state of affairs indicates an unwillingness, or incapacity, on the part of Government, which is a justifiable cause for concern. I hope you will take it from me that it is certainly not a matter of unwillingness on the part of the Local Government. For some time past it has been obvious that the powers we possess under the ordinary law were inadequate and we have been in communication with the Government of India—for how long I cannot say—with the object of obtaining extended powers to deal with terrorism which is a menace to society and the whole system of orderly Government. One result of our efforts has been the promulgation of an Ordinance which appears in the papers this morning, and perhaps you may be interested to know that on Sunday morning I shall meet two prominent members of the Government of India in Calcutta for the purpose of discussing further powers to enable us to deal, I hope, adequately with terrorist organisation and activity. I would only say now that it is easier to point to the need for action than to devise the lines which action should take.

I remember well how on the first occasion that you entertained me, your Chairman claimed my interest for those who carried on the important tea industry and who, he assured me, I should find were "plain, hardworking, simple husbandmen." After five sojourns in Darjeeling,

where I have had the privilege of acquiring the friendship of a considerable number of these simple husbandmen, it seems to me that, though the description he gave is in some respects correct, the word "simple," in its ordinary sense, is perhaps not quite appropriate. I was intrigued to know what the word "simple" in its ordinary sense was, so I looked it up in the dictionary. It appears "simple" is not so simple as it seems. The dictionary says simple means "all of one kind." It gives examples—"a man's simple word is as good as his oath;" "a man who pretends to be no more than a simple gentleman, plain in appearance and manner, ingenuous, natural, artless." Another example which rather astonished me—"to give an infant alcohol is simple murder." None of these examples appears to me to fit the case and from my experience I think that Colonel Little would have been more correct if his description had been—"plain, hardworking, honest husbandmen." I will leave it at that.

I have always regarded the planter as being, like the sailor, a general handy man. He has his obvious duties of supervising cultivation, controlling a factory and managing labour: but in addition he must be to a great extent his own house-builder and clerk of works, his own engineer and even his own road-maker. In public service,—whether in local institutions or in local volunteer corps,—he has no superior. All honour to the planter. He is still what, I believe, a former Lieutenant-Governor of the Province called him, "the backbone of the British Government in the district."

We owe a great deal to these hardworking, honest husbandmen. The development of the tea

industry to its present important position is due to the initiative and enterprise of British husbandmen who came out here from the time of the Mutiny onwards and cleared the hillsides of jungles and planted the tea seeds which were at first, I believe, obtained from China. The first tea cultivation in Bengal was started in Darjeeling, about 1856. Since then a steady flow of British husbandmen has carried on and developed the industry until at present the Darjeeling district has gained the pre-eminent place for quality amongst the tea producers of the world. I see from the last statistics that the amount of tea produced in India has reached as much as 400,000,000 pounds per annum and the number of people employed is nearly 900,000. The export of tea in 1929-30 was valued at over Rs. 26,00,00,000 representing 8 per cent. of the value of India's total exports. In 1927-28, tea represented 10 per cent. of the value of India's total export. Another thing which interested me is that 90 per cent. of the plantations in Northern India are under European control and management.

I quote these figures to show that I am not unacquainted with the extent and importance of the industry. Anyone in my position would be seriously neglecting his duty if he did not make it his business carefully to watch its interests. Beverages for popular consumption like tea and coffee are a necessity and must command a ready market. As your product provides an important part of the breakfast and tea tables, so also beer provides an important part of the luncheon and supper tables of the people. There is one difference, as far as the British Isles are concerned,

that whereas the brewers would be pleased to see some of the tax taken off beer, you apparently would be pleased to see a tax put upon tea, especially, as should be the case, if a preference was given to Empire tea !

The world has been passing through difficult times and I am afraid that the tea industry in Assam and the Duars and other parts of India has suffered. Excessive production in other parts of the world has caused the price of finished articles to sink below an economic level. As one who has a firm belief in Empire preference, I hope that time is not far distant when the Home markets, and possibly the Empire markets, will give a preference to British products.

No one has escaped feeling the effects of the world crisis. We, in India, have every reason to know that something extraordinary has happened, but with all the difficulties connected with this crisis your attention cannot altogether have been diverted from, nor your anxiety lessened as regards, the future of India and of those who earn their livelihood here, as a consequence of any new constitution which Parliament may devise. It is difficult for us out here to foresee what the value of the decisions of the Round Table Conference may be towards the eventual production of the new constitution by Parliament, but British trading interests in India have a right to expect that their interests shall be duly safeguarded and I, as I fancy you, find it difficult to see how this security can be adequately assured unless control at the Centre is maintained for some time to come unquestioned and unquestionable. I cannot refrain from

expressing my personal satisfaction, with which I think most of you will agree, at the result of the general election which has just been held at Home. Such a result must have a great effect not only throughout England but also throughout the world as it definitely indicates the soundness of public opinion in the mother country, and the ready determination of the people to face their difficulties whatever the cost, in order that the credit of England may stand pre-eminent and unassailable in the eyes of the world as it always has done in the past and, I hope, will do in the future.

I have thought it my duty to study and to make myself acquainted, as best I can, with the trading interests in Bengal and to be able to realise the possible dangers which might arise under an advanced constitution which would involve a considerable relaxation of the control which has existed in the past. Perhaps first-hand experience of conditions out here for five years may be considered of value in any discussions which I may be called upon to take part in at Home. I shall be glad, therefore, if you think well, that you might keep me informed of your difficulties and needs when I have left Bengal.

I have expressed my views about the planters. I should be failing in my duty if I did not express my feelings for those gracious ladies who share their lot in this district. I can well understand what their companionship and help must have meant in the past to many who are far from Home and who, before the advent of that esteemed member of the family, "The Baby Austin," were situated in somewhat isolated spots. I would like to say to

you, and through you to them, how much my wife and I have appreciated their kindness and consideration. Perhaps I shall not offend anyone by saying that I personally shall always recall their memory with affection and regard.

Now, gentlemen, it merely remains for me to thank you once more for your many kindnesses during our period of office in Bengal, which, though strenuous and not easy, has been a happy one. I could have done without some of the luxuries, such as the Detenus, Civil Disobedience, Terrorism, a slump in Jute, a world crisis, a financial crisis out here and a chronic shortage of money, and above all the exceptional efficiency of a certain type of Bengalee for political agitation and intrigue, but a contest with these has been part of a Governor's amusements. I am thankful that labour has behaved well and business has not been interfered with.

I shall carry away with me many most happy recollections, but none more happy than those of my sojourns amongst you in Darjeeling.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Farewell
Addresses presented at Darjeeling on
31st October 1931.***

GENTLEMEN,

Your presence and mine in this place to-day indicates the passing of another stage and our arrival, I regret to say, at a parting of our ways. The pleasant anticipations which I formed when I met you in this place more than four-and-a-half years ago have been completely fulfilled, and Lady Jackson and I have always looked forward to the cheery and cordial welcome so generously and regularly accorded to us by the Hill people.

I greatly appreciate your addresses which I have just heard with much interest.

GENTLEMEN OF THE MUNICIPALITY,

When first I came here as Governor of the Province, four-and-a-half years ago, I remarked,—with recollections of a previous visit paid to Darjeeling 30 years before,—that you were obviously conscious of your responsibilities and that one saw on all sides the result of thoughtful and progressive administration. I am glad to be able now, at the end of my term of office, to endorse my first impression.

In a station like Darjeeling which for several months in the year is patronised by visitors who come here for holiday and recuperation of their

health, your object must be to add to its natural attractions, which in many ways are unique, by assuring every visitor such an enjoyable sojourn in your midst that he will be anxious to return. Your first duty should be to assure that all have at all times the enjoyment of the ordinary reasonable amenities of life. The question of an adequate water-supply in a place like Darjeeling is of vital importance. An expenditure on such an object must be your first concern. It is an ordinary business proposition for which you can expect a good return. I believe you are alive to this requirement. Indeed in your anxiety to supply this necessity I understand that you momentarily forgot the Departmental Rules and procedure. I am glad, however, to gather that in the present case the results of your oversight are not expected to be serious, and I congratulate you on having tackled the problem without asking for Government aid at this difficult time. I am conscious of having impressed upon successive Chairmen of the Municipality the need for increasing the town's reserves of water; and if I seek to arrogate to myself some of the credit for the eventual maturing of the scheme, I must be prepared, I suppose, to shoulder some of the blame attaching to those who inaugurate water-supply schemes without the blessing in writing of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department! At all events I am glad to hear from the Chief Engineer that there is every prospect that the increased water-supply will be available from next year. Likewise, the adequate supply of electric light and heating must be assured. For this purpose up-to-date machinery must be installed

and this I understand you have now in contemplation. I have ventured to mention these matters as I am anxious that Darjeeling should prosper.

GENTLEMEN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD,

When I came here nearly five years ago, you told me that your main concern lay with communications and with the supply of educational and medical facilities throughout the district. Your energies are spread further afield than those of the Municipal Commissioners and I cannot, I fear, claim the same close touch with your doings that I feel I have with municipal matters which are, as it were, at my front door. With so many road-making authorities in the one district, I must confess, I am never very clear whether the road I happen for the time being to be on is a credit (or the opposite) to the Public Works Department, the District Board, the Municipality, the Forest Department or some enterprising Tea Garden Manager. Many of the roads in the station itself (as I see from an old map which came into my possession the other day) were originally laid out by Lord Napier of Magdala and constructed by Military Engineers. Considering, however, the natural wear and tear on your roads,—which are often constructed on gradients calculated to strike dismay into the heart of anything but a “Baby Austin,” and which have to carry off the drainage which results from a rainfall of over 100 inches a year,—considering also the increase in motor traffic, light and heavy, on many of your roads, I think you are to be much congratulated on the way in which you discharge your responsibilities and Lady Jackson

and I will certainly bear away with us the happiest memories of our trips over District Board roads. The inhabitants of the district have reason to be grateful for your labours in their interest.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ANJUMAN-I-ISLAMIA,

You represent a small but important element in the population of this district, most of you, I believe, being engaged in commerce.

I remember being much impressed on hearing from your spokesman, soon after my arrival in Darjeeling, some account of the many religious and philanthropic activities which you undertake for the good of your community here. I am glad to gather from the address which you have just read and from what I have heard elsewhere that the same spirit of service persists among you still.

I join with you in deploring the untimely death of your benefactor and my friend the late Nawab Bahadur Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury. I trust that his loss, so far from depriving your community of the Public Hall which it has been his intention to build for you, will spur the members of your community to carry through a project which would be a most suitable memorial to one who had your interests very much at heart.

You refer, gentlemen, in your address to the interest which you take in education and particularly in the education of the girls of your community for which you have provided a special Muktab here in Darjeeling. I am deeply convinced that no community can make any appreciable progress as a whole in advance of the level of its

own womenfolk, and I appreciate, therefore, the steps which you are taking in this direction. I am sorry to learn that it was found necessary some years ago to suspend the grant which the Girls' Muktab had previously received from the Department. I understand that a deputation of the school authorities is shortly to wait upon the Director of Public Instruction to discuss certain differences which have unfortunately arisen between them and the Department's inspecting officers and I hope that as an outcome of this deputation's discussions with the Director these differences will be finally settled to the satisfaction of both parties and that it may be found possible to restore the grant so that the Muktab may be enabled to carry on its good work unhampered by financial worry.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HILLMEN'S ASSOCIATION—

You represent the races whose home is in these hills,—not only the original Lepcha inhabitants of this district but also their neighbours from Nepal who have immigrated here for military service and for trade and cultivation, and strangers also from Bhutan and far Tibet who have settled here, since the advent of the British brought ordered Government to this tract. It is, perhaps, not inappropriate to recall that when the area, which now corresponds to Darjeeling, Lepong and Jalapahar, was first ceded to the East India Company it was estimated that in the whole area of 140 square miles there were not above 100 souls living. To come to more recent times,—the first regular census of the district as it is now demarcated

was that of 1871-72, and this showed a population of about 95,000. The tea industry was then in its infancy and the great bulk of the increase must have been one of immigration from the neighbouring hill states. That was 60 years ago. The provisional figure for the district at this year's census is no less than 320,000 in round figures, an increase of 225 per cent. in 60 years. Of course, the development of the tea industry is responsible directly and indirectly for a great part of the increase: but the average number of persons employed daily in the tea industry is less than 70,000 and even allowing for dependents this leaves a large balance out of a population of 320,000. This balance is largely represented by immigration both from the plains and the hills for purposes of cultivation and trade. I think, therefore, that it may fairly be claimed that the district of Darjeeling as we now know it,—with its tea gardens, cinchona plantations, townships, schools, and villages and its thousands of acres of small cultivation,—is evidence of what enterprise can do—British and Indian and Paharia—under the aegis of a stable and ordered Government.

I am glad to think that the people of the hills are themselves sharers in this general advance that they have prospered under the British Raj.

As regards the future position of this district under any reformed constitution, I am afraid I am not in a position to prophesy, and in the absence of any definite idea what the eventual decision of Parliament as regards the future constitution may be, I can express no views. The question will have to be considered in the light of a known position

under the new constitution, and then the best interests of all the inhabitants of these Hills must be the deciding factor when the question of removing wholly or in part what you have called "the ban of exclusion" is being considered.

I am very deeply touched by the warmth of the good wishes which all the deputations have expressed for Lady Jackson's and of my own well-being. I especially appreciate the cordiality of the references to Lady Jackson. No one knows better than I do the time and labour which she has devoted to the Victoria Hospital scheme. It has been for her a labour of love and the only reward she would desire would be that the remodelled Hospital may be appreciated and prove useful and be a blessing to the people of the district.

And now, gentlemen, I am afraid the time has come for me to say that word,—most difficult to say to the hospitable people of Darjeeling,—“Good-bye.” For five successive years we have spent nearly half the year in Darjeeling where we have gained the benefit of this health-giving climate and greatly enjoyed our association with the courteous and cheery people of the district, who have always extended so loyal and friendly a welcome to us. I should especially like to acknowledge the assistance which I have received from the leading residents of Darjeeling town, such as, Rai Sahib Hari Prosad Prodhan and Sardar Bahadur Laden La. The latter has been closely associated with me as an Honorary member of my Staff throughout my term of office in Bengal and for his many services to me I shall always remember him with gratitude and affection. We are greatly

touchèd by this wonderful demonstration of good-will. I ask you, gentlemen, to assure the people that we earnestly pray for their happiness and prosperity.

If I say that we shall never forget Darjeeling and its people, it is no common-place utterance: it is very sincere. Thank you all, fare you well and Good-bye.

His Excellency's Speech in proposing "His Majesty's Forces" at the Armistice Day Dinner on 11th November 1931.

COLONEL CRADDOCK AND GENTLEMEN,

This is, I think, the fifth successive year in which it has fallen to my lot to propose the Toast of His Majesty's Forces. At the fifth attempt it is not easy to find anything novel to say in presenting this toast, but I must say something if only to give you the pleasure of hearing "Jimmy Shea" reply: and I am at all events happy to think that the toast is one which is sure to go without the need of much commendation from me.

My recollections of the Army, though they are not so intimate as those of my friend, Sir John Shea, go back a long way, and I cannot help thinking that Tommy Atkins of my early days was a very different individual from the soldier we know to-day. One is apt to feel that the old soldier one knew then is disappearing,—I nearly said "dying out," but as we have heard to-night "old soldiers never die,—they merely fade away." Perhaps this is the reason why most old soldiers are ranked amongst the "die-hards!" The type of soldier we know to-day,—in the ranks, I mean, and among the N. C. Os.,—is probably an abler and almost certainly a fitter man: he is a product of the war itself and of the period of development which has taken place since the war. It is no longer a simple thing to be a soldier. Although I have no doubt the Sergeant still says "You thought? See here, m'lad, you ain't paid to think,"

the modern soldier has to think. For one thing he is so hung round with gadgets which require thought. And who would ever have expected to see a smart cavalry officer, booted and spurred, dismounting from an armoured car? But we must go with the times, and mechanisation and the development of a mechanically-minded army are a military necessity,—especially to a power whose first line Army is small and depends rather on quality than on quantity for its value. The men of to-day are different in many ways from the old soldiers whom I knew, but when it comes to business I know I am right in saying that the metal is the same.

Retrenchment of which we are all personally aware is the order of the day and His Majesty's Forces have not escaped its attentions. Let us hope that any retrenchment which is made will not affect their efficiency. The time has not yet come when we can afford to reduce the Navy below the security margin. We have only a small army and that must be kept a first class army and this applies equally to our Air Force.

My toast includes all His Majesty's Forces at Home and abroad and of Sea and Air and in all portions of His Majesty's Dominions. Our minds naturally turn to the Forces in India where we are passing through difficult and awkward times. Under the conditions prevailing in India to-day, responsibilities of His Majesty's Forces do not grow less, though unfortunately their pay does. There can be no task more difficult or less congenial to the soldier than acting in support of the civil power, but the

necessity of this in India in these days of frequent defiance of the ordinary canons of law and order is a contingency never very remote and I gladly acknowledge the spirit of readiness and of restraint in which such demands have been met. A word of special praise is due to our Indian comrades: the strain upon them has been heavy: their loyalty and discipline highly tested, but their staunchness has never failed, a fact which reflects the greatest credit not only on them but on those who lead them. Their contempt for the agitator has been emphasised in a way one would expect from loyal Indian soldiers of the King Emperor.

I would also ask you to remember that the toast includes, besides the fighting forces and the mercantile marine, all auxiliary bodies which played an important part in the Great War—Nurses and Waaks, Wrens and Wrafs—all played their part in the day of trial and it is right that we should bear their services in mind to-night. The keynote of the celebration like this is comradeship between those to whom it was given to share in a great adventure and gratitude to those who, whether they came through it or went down, helped to make the issue safe.

My toast is coupled with the name of the General Officer Commanding the Eastern Command—General Sir John Shea. We are all glad to have him with us again once more to-night. Sir John always makes a point of attending this dinner and I know he does so because he welcomes the opportunity that it affords him of expressing his good-will to those who are* still with us and his

gratitude to the memory of others whom time and change have removed. Like all true Irishmen I feel that he comes partly because he likes to be in at a good "barney."

Her Majesty made a good investment when forty-three years ago she conferred her Commission on Sir John Shea. We know him best as our Army Commander since 1928, but he has had a distinguished career before he came to Naini Tal. For a considerable number of years before the War he was a Professor at the Staff College at Quetta. He commanded the 60th Division in Palestine with great distinction. Though his work there possibly entitled him to the keys of Heaven, I understand that he had to be satisfied with receiving the keys of Jerusalem, for it was he who received the surrender of Jerusalem and the keys of the city on December 9th, 1917.

The prophet Jeremiah, who is normally accounted as a man of pessimistic disposition, once enquired—"How wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordon?" Sir John Shea found the answer when he got his Force,—the 60th Division, the Anzac Mounted Division and the Imperial Brigade—across a much-flooded Jordon in March 1918.

In the ordinary course this will be the last time that he will attend this gathering. You may be assured, Sir John, that in your retirement you will not be forgotten and that you carry away with you the sincere good wishes of all present here to-night.

Gentlemen, I ask you now to drink to the Toast of His Majesty's Forces, coupled with the name of General Sir John Shea.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Toast "The
Chairman" at the Armistice Day Dinner
on 11th November 1931.***

I am very grateful to you, Colonel Craddock, for the kind way in which you have proposed the Toast of my health. It was nearly five years ago since I had the good fortune to meet you when I first arrived in Calcutta. We have met on many occasions since then and I have reason to be grateful for the advice and assistance that has always been readily given to me by one whose interests both social and business bring me into close daily touch with all classes of people in this city. I feel you know me well enough and something of my endeavours to discharge my somewhat difficult task to the best of my ability, and this makes your kind words of all the more value.

I greatly appreciate the expression of your goodwill, gentlemen, which you have shown by your response to this toast. I would like to interpret your goodwill, if I may, as meaning that I may be healthy, wealthy and wise. Health is a blessing we all pray for. Wisdom and judgment are rather like wealth and are liable to be elusive especially at critical times. Nothing is so easy and nothing so annoying as being wise after the event. It is certainly not permissible for general officers and Governors.

I feel I owe you, gentlemen, and those responsible for this gathering, an apology. In a moment of forgetfulness of the conditions under which we meet here, I contemplated referring to matters of a political nature. A moment's reflection was

enough to make me realise the undesirability of such a course. You debar politics and you are right to do so. I hope you will rigidly stick to this rule.

This is the fifth of these dinners that I have attended and it is most gratifying to see how well it is still supported. The interest on the occasion does not appear to have relaxed at all in spite of the fact that the dinner in its present form has been going on for eight years and many fall out through time and change, while in the nature of the case there can be no new recruits. These gatherings indicate, I think, a response to the call of comradeship which was fashioned in the fields of War, and not any particular desire to keep alive memories of war many of which we would prefer to forget. The success of this gathering I feel is greatly due to the work of the organisers, such as Mr. Gunn and Mr. Kilgour. I must not forget the part that Colonel Craddock has played in connection with these functions; we have much to be grateful to him for. I was interested to hear that Colonel Craddock started his military career nearly five and twenty years ago in the then mechanised arm of the service as Sergeant of the Calcutta Cyclists. My informant tells me that he well remembers seeing Colonel Craddock pedalling along Harrison road after some *goondas* who had been looting some shops there. Later, when he joined the Scottish, he discarded the cycle as being not quite consonant with the dignity of the Kilt.

The simile which Colonel Craddock used in his remarks that administering a Province like Bengal is like playing cricket on a difficult wicket is, I think, appropriate. When one is batting, the advantage

generally seems to be with the bowler. When one is bowling, the wicket seems to have improved and if one appeals to the Umpire for his assistance, he is not always too sympathetic. However, this is all in the game. The game might be dull if the wicket was always perfect. It is fairly certain that in Bengal one must always be prepared to play on sticky wicket. There are times when everything seems sticky in Bengal. The climate is sticky and I have heard it suggested that Government is slow and sticky. This is a charge which no Government of Bengal can afford to ignore, especially in these times when terrorists stalk the land. Terrorists must be regarded as being beyond the pale of the ordinary law and must be and will be dealt with accordingly by Government.

You remind me that this is the last occasion upon which, in the ordinary course, I shall attend this dinner. I shall always retain the happiest memories of these occasions. I hope they will continue to be held as long as there are enough comrades of the Great War left in Calcutta to provide the company.

***His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrew's
Day Dinner on 30th November 1931.***

GENTLEMEN,

Once again it is my privilege to respond to the toast of your guests which has just been so kindly proposed by Mr. Mackerrow. On four previous occasions I have endeavoured to frame a reply which I hoped might express the feelings of those eminent gentlemen who have partaken of your hospitality. On this occasion meeting as we do under the influence of retrenchment and economy,—though I am bound to say that I see few signs of them here,—I feel I shall be best considering the wishes both of your guests and you if I confine my remarks in response to the toast to the formal but most sincere “Thank you” and at the same time give you the assurance that your good wishes are most heartily reciprocated. I must also thank you, Mr. Mackerrow, for your sympathetic and generous reference to myself and my task in Bengal and for your good wishes to Lady Jackson and myself when we finish our term.

It has been my good fortune to listen to many excellent speeches from the gentlemen who have been called upon to preside at this St. Andrew's Day Dinner and I am sure that I can say with general approval that the speech we have heard to-night in no way falls short of the high standard we have been led to expect. You have touched, Mr. Chairman, upon several subjects of special

interest in these times, and you were able to speak with a knowledge gained in close observation and actual experience of political and municipal affairs in this city. Your reference to Scotland and the part her people have played and are playing in India was couched in terms of that restraint and moderation which are characteristic of your race. Perhaps you felt that, speaking as a Scotsman to Scotsmen, reference to their qualities at such a gathering as this might flavour of the superfluous. However, it is perhaps permissible for a Englishman to say that after five years' experience of your countrymen and their work in Bengal my appreciation of their qualities and influence for good throughout the Province has increased proportionately to my experience.

I listened with much pleasure to your graceful tribute to the late Viceroy, Lord Irwin. His term of office* was one of unprecedented difficulty and anxiety. It will not be disputed that Lord Irwin's earnestness and sincerity won the confidence and affection of all with whom he came in contact and there is no question that his high character and sterling qualities made a great impression upon the Indian mind which must surely prove of valuable assistance towards securing the mutual understanding and trust which is necessary for any lasting solution of the Indian problem.

On our present Viceroy it would not be becoming of me to pass any comment, however favourable: a long and distinguished previous service in India assures him the confidence and respect of the Indian people. My acquaintance

with Lord Willingdon began on another field. It is a pleasure to me to have had an opportunity of serving for a short time under his Captaincy, though on a rather more lumpy wicket than we ever came across in England.

To your remarks upon the political situation with which we are at present faced, and to most of your conclusions I can readily subscribe. Your appeal for a better understanding and a greater measure of trust was obviously sincere and struck a note which must be taken up and played upon if harmony is to be produced in place of the discordant medley which at present makes it impossible to march in anything like step towards a satisfactory settlement of our difficulties.

There is no greater obstacle to progress in Bengal than the menace to orderly government and individual liberty which has manifested itself in the campaign of terrorism to which you have referred. If there is one thing which, more than any other, is poisoning the atmosphere—political and communal—at this moment, it is this campaign of terrorism.

For 20 years or more terrorism has been in existence in Bengal of varying degrees of activity. For considerable period at a time the movement has been kept under control, but only by resort to additional powers other than those available under the ordinary law. There was a period of quiescence after the enactment of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1925 and during the three years from April 1927 to April 1930, no outrage which could be definitely connected with the terrorist

movement had taken place. This fact had to be taken heavily into account when we were considering the necessity for seeking a renewal of the Act which was due to lapse in April 1930. We decided, not without considerable misgivings, to trust the Province and to refrain from proposing the re-enactment of those sections of the Act which granted to the Executive certain powers of preventive detention without trial. In announcing the decision of Government in the Legislative Council, I emphasised the fact that my Government desired to do everything they could to seek, in co-operation with Indian opinion, a solution of existing difficulties and that they sincerely trusted that no emergency would necessitate the resumption of powers the occasion for which we all deplored. You know the answer that was made to that appeal. Within three weeks there occurred the Chittagong raid, and twenty-four hours later we had to be placed in possession of those very powers of arrest and preventive detention with which we had hoped to be able to dispense.

This prompt action appeared once more to have brought the trouble under control, but various factors, political and economic, have subsequently caused a further deterioration, and the last few months have witnessed a growing tale of murder and attempted murder, of armed robbery and dacoity, and of intimidation brought to bear on witnesses, Government servants and public men, whose views do not agree with those concerned in the perpetration or instigation of these crimes. The movement has already taken a heavy toll: it is a potential menace of the gravest character in

that, in the name of patriotism, it appeals to excited and adventurous youth and turns to account all forms of discontent.

Under these circumstances the duty of Government is plain. There can be no compromise with terrorism and those who practise or encourage it must be regarded as outside the pale of the ordinary law. Experience has shown that a movement of this kind cannot be exorcised by a mere change of Government or even by a change in the system of Government, nor can it be dealt with successfully under the ordinary law or even with the additional powers which we have hitherto possessed.

In this situation it is the duty and intention of Government to employ all powers, ordinary and extraordinary, that we may possess or receive, to eradicate the menace and in this determination the Local Government have the full support of the Government of India and of His Majesty's Government. The recent Press Act enables us to deal with any form of incitement to terrorism in the Press. The Ordinance of the 29th of last month extends our powers of action under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act and enables us to proceed against those who are members of associations with terrorist objects, without waiting until they are personally involved in terrorist outrages. Extensive action has already been taken under this Ordinance. The exercise of the further powers with which we have thus been entrusted must necessarily involve a large increase in the number of persons under detention in our midst. It must not be forgotten that these men are not criminals in the eyes of the law. They are under "preventive

detention " and their treatment and the maintenance of discipline in the camps and jails in which they are segregated present difficulties of which the public generally can have little conception. The whole problem is under most anxious consideration, but this much I can say :—Government are fully alive to the dangers of indiscipline in detention camps and have taken steps—in the interests as much of the detenus as of any one else—to ensure that the necessary level of discipline shall be maintained. The question is naturally asked,—“ Why are not steps taken to remove these sources of difficulty and danger from the Province ? ” Their removal from our midst would unquestionably be a god-send to this Province ; but it must be remembered that the authorities in the places to which they might be removed view such removal with considerable misgiving, and it is a serious matter to ask other Provinces to accept responsibility for our troubles. I am, however, in a position to state that the removal of some regarding whom we are satisfied that it is in the public interests that they should not remain in our midst has begun and they have already left the Province.

As you will have gathered from a statement which was recently made by the Under-Secretary of State in the House of Lords, other plans have matured. We have just been placed in possession of further powers of a far-reaching nature in addition to those to which I have already referred. Preparations have already been made, in collaboration where necessary with the military authorities, for the immediate exercise of these powers. Operations, in fact have already commenced. I think

they will be found to amount to rather more than the "showing of the flag" for which Mr. Reid Kay asked to-night. I feel confident that, following on the measures now in operation, the lawlessness which, as a direct result of terrorism, has recently been a feature of certain parts of the Province will be successfully dealt with. At the same time Government have considered it necessary that, without prejudice to the safety of the innocent, those guilty of terrorist crime should be more speedily brought to account. We believe that under the procedure now to be introduced this will be assured. Moreover, the Tribunal trying cases of terrorist crime will now have power to visit with the highest penalty of the law murderous attacks which have failed of their object but fall under the head of "attempts to murder."

I hope that what I have been able to say may help to dispel the suspicion which apparently prevails in some quarters that official reticence generally implies official inaction. Public interests sometimes demand reticence. I have already indicated some of the powers contained in the new Ordinance. They are far-reaching and drastic, and they will be used to the utmost that may be necessary until the menace of terrorism is laid low. I fear it is impossible, however, to give any assurance that there will be no more outrages. It is not humanly possible to guarantee this, but every endeavour will be made to round up the known terrorists, to forestall anticipated attacks and to visit with speedy retribution those found guilty of such offences. So much for preventive and punitive action. But I feel strongly that the most effective

and certain remedy against a moral, social and political evil like terrorism is the formation and open manifestation of a united public feeling against it. It is the lack of such manifestation that forces Government to take the only course open to them, consistent with their duty to their officers and the public, namely, to adopt and exercise such special powers as may from time to time be necessary. But in the long run the pressure of an organised public opinion, which will refuse to countenance terrorist activities and which will ensure a proper co-operation with the authorities in dealing with those activities, provides the method of killing the thing which all would prefer to see adopted. Terrorism will not thrive in any area where the population deny to the terrorists their active sympathy and support.

Perhaps it is not much use preaching peace where there is no peace, but as far as terrorism is concerned, I know that the vast bulk of the people of this Province disapprove of and desire to see it wiped out. In speaking on this subject here to-night I am conscious that I am addressing not only this audience, distinguished though it is, but also the larger public outside. I therefore do not hesitate to appeal to the public generally of this Presidency,—to public bodies, to private citizens, to the Press, to parents and guardians and all in a position to exercise influence or control over the young men who are the special dupes of those who organise this evil,—and I appeal to all men of goodwill to co-operate in the formation and expression of such a public opinion as will of itself go further than anything else can, to discourage terrorism, and

to render it unnecessary for Government to resort to those special and extraordinary measures which their duty to Society and to the State must otherwise compel them to adopt.

I would have preferred on this occasion of all others to have been able to devote my remarks to more congenial matters, but unfortunately circumstances have left me no choice.

The announcement of my successor as Governor of this Presidency indicates that this is the last occasion upon which I shall have the pleasure of attending this dinner. By the appointment of Sir John Anderson we may feel that Bengal will have the benefit of one with a brilliant record of public service and an experienced and tried administrator and he can be assured of a cordial and at the same time sympathetic welcome to this Presidency. He has the further advantage, I believe, of being a Scotsman.

I was sorry to see the attempts which had been made in some quarters to queer the pitch or run him out before he had even taken his guard by suggesting that his selection had been influenced by his qualifications for the administration of repressive measures. It is possible that terrorism may prove a nasty patch in an otherwise always difficult wicket, but as regards this I am not without hope that before Sir John Anderson arrives, by the judicious application of the heavy roller and above all assisted by the drying sun of a helpful public opinion, this patch will have been levelled out. Sir John Anderson comes here to deal with innumerable problems awaiting him in

Bengal. I hope he may be more fortunate than I have been, at any rate in one respect. I was prepared for most things, but not for a world crisis which upset even the placid contentment of a world monopoly and which thereby at once affected directly or indirectly the economic life of more than 50 per cent. of the inhabitants of this Province. However, whatever the conditions may be I feel confident that Sir John Anderson will come out here to tackle them with courage, sympathy and an open mind and in this task he is assured of firm support. In bidding farewell to the Caledonian Society we shall always remember with sincere gratitude the kindness, consideration and support which Lady Jackson and I have invariably enjoyed from the members and from all their countrymen during our stay in Bengal.

To the Society and all of you I offer our best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous future.

***His Excellency's Addresses to recipients
of Badges, Sanads, etc., at the Calcutta
Durbar held on 1st December 1931.***

THE HON'BLE MR. WILLIAM DAVID RUSSELL
PRENTICE, C.S.I.,

You began your service in Bengal 30 years ago. In every position you have held during this long period, whether in the districts or in headquarters, you have a record of conspicuous distinction. As Chief Secretary for four years and as Member of Council in charge of the Political and Appointment Departments you have rendered me every possible assistance in dealing with the difficult political questions that have arisen. You were appointed a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire in 1928 and have fully earned the award of the higher Order of the Star of India.

In the name of the King and Emperor of India and by His Imperial Majesty's Command, I hereby invest you with the Honourable Insignia of the Order of the Star of India, of which Most Exalted Order His Imperial Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be a Companion.

RAI SARAT CHANDRA BANERJEE BAHADUR, C.I.E.,

You were President of the Calcutta Improvement Trust Tribunal for 16 years during which period you discharged your duties with conspicuous fairness and ability. Before your appointment as President of the Tribunal you held important posts in the Legislative Department of the Government of India and were awarded the title of Rai Bahadur in 1912.

In the name of the King-Emperor of India and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

LIEUT.-COLONEL HUGH WILLIAM ACTON, C.I.E.,

For seven years as Professor and for the past three years as Director of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, you have worked with conspicuous success in the cause of research. Your work is known throughout the scientific world and by your unselfish devotion to the duty of your choice you have put millions in your debt.

In the name of the King-Emperor of India and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

MR. CHARU CHANDRA BISWAS, C.I.E.,

As an advocate of long standing of the Calcutta High Court, an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly, a Fellow of the University of Calcutta and a Member of the Syndicate and a Member of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, you are a man of many public activities and have left your mark in every public body on which you have served. Your systematic labours and fearless attitude in connection with municipal affairs in this City have won for you general admiration and respect.

In the name of the King-Emperor of India and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian

Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

Mr. LIONEL BURTON BURROWS, C.B.E.,

In the series of important posts which you have held successively during the past 16 years you have shown yourself to be a district officer of energy and originality and have an exceptionally creditable record. It was largely due to your firm and able handling of the situation that the disturbances, which broke out in the Kishoreganj subdivision of your district in July of last year, were so speedily and effectively brought under control.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand to you the Badge of a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULANA SAIYID WASIUDDIN,

As a recognised master of Arabic literature a profound scholar, an educationist of a high order with a long and successful record as a teacher at the Calcutta Madrasah, you have fully earned the distinction conferred upon you.

CAPTAIN HADJI DABIRUDDIN AHMED, O.B.E.,

A successful physician and surgeon both on the military and the civil side you have taken an active part in the work of many public institutions, including the Senate of the Calcutta University, the Governing Body of the State Medical Faculty of Bengal, the Sanitary Board of Bengal and the Committee of the Calcutta Hospital Nurses Institution. You also did excellent public service as Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Standing Committee

during your two years as Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation. You have exercised a profound and entirely beneficial influence over your students at the Campbell Medical School.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

CAPTAIN GEORGE DOUGLAS HOSKINS, M.B.E.,

You entered Government service as a Sub-Inspector of Salt in 1909 and were confirmed as Superintendent of Excise and Salt on your return from war service in 1920. Throughout the year 1930 you rendered admirable service in connection with the anti-salt-tax campaign in the district of Midnapore carrying out your arduous and sometimes dangerous duties with conspicuous devotion.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand to you the Badge of Member of the Most Excellent order of the British Empire.

***K.-I.-H.* (Gold) Medal.**

DR. IAN ROSS ANDERSON, M.B., CH.B.,

For several years you have been in charge of the Scottish Church Mission Hospital at Kalna which has proved of great benefit not only locally but also to the people of other districts whom its reputation attracts. You have recently extended your sphere of operations by means of a motor dispensary with which you visit outlying villages at regular intervals. You have also rendered excellent service as an Honorary Magistrate and as a visitor of the Sub-Jail.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command I present you with the *Kaisar-i-Hind* Medal of the First Class for public service in India.

KHAN BAHADUR MIAN ABDUL GAFUR SARDAR,

As a leading Muhammadan Zamindar of Jessore you are well known for your charities. You also were of great assistance to the local authorities during the recent political troubles. You received the title of Khan Sahib as recently as 1929, but by your activities on behalf of Government you have well earned your speedy promotion to the higher title.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI TAFAZZAL AHMAD,

You have a long record of creditable service in the Public Works Department. Recently your work on the ærodrone and in the remodelling of the barracks at Dum Dum earned for you special commendation.

RAI KASHISWAR CHAKRABATTI BAHADUR,

You received the title of Rai Sahib in June 1930 in recognition of your meritorious service as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. The title of Rai Bahadur, which has followed so soon, has been conferred upon you as a special case in appreciation of your valuable work in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement in the very difficult subdivision of Bhola in Bakarganj. You were able to maintain authority in your subdivision with great success in spite of threats of attacks on yourself and your family.

RAI SARADA PRASANNA GHOSH BAHADUR,

You have to your credit more than 24 years' excellent service in the Executive Branch of the Bengal Civil Service. Your valuable work during the Lillooah strikers' march in 1928 and the energy and initiative which you displayed during the political troubles last year have won for you a well-earned distinction.

RAI ASHUTOSH GHOSH BAHADUR,

You have done valuable work as an Honorary Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, and the assiduous manner in which you perform your honorary duties is appreciated by Government and should serve as an example to others.

RAI AJIT NATH DAS BAHADUR,

Your labours in furtherance of the working of the Reformed Constitution, your loyalty and sound political sense are well known. By these and by your many charitable gifts you have well earned your title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI JATINDRA CHANDRA LAHIRI BAHADUR,

You have had a long record of meritorious service in the Judicial Department from which you have recently retired as a District and Sessions Judge.

RAI KALI PRASANNA RAY BAHADUR,

Your excellent service as Publicity Officer in the Public Health Department earned for you the title of Rai Sahib in 1926. By your continued good work in the department you have fully earned promotion to the higher title.

RAI KHIROD LAL MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

You are one of the senior Deputy Magistrates. You have throughout maintained a good record of efficient and loyal service and have latterly discharged the onerous duties of Additional District Magistrate, 24-Parganas, with great ability.

RAI JITENDRA NATH SARKAR BAHADUR,

You have maintained a high standard throughout your 24 years in the Bengal Civil Service. Your work as Assistant Secretary in several departments of Government has earned you special commendation.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUHAMMAD FAZLUL KARIM,

Your record since your appointment to the Executive Branch of the Bengal Civil Service in 1904 has been uniformly good. You displayed courage and initiative of a high order in Midnapore during the Civil Disobedience Movement and worked throughout with the greatest energy and devotion to duty.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUHAMMAD SHAMSUD-DAHAR,

For your excellent service in the Police Department you received the title of Khan Sahib in 1922 and you also hold the King's Police Medal. You acquitted yourself well in the difficult situations which so frequently arose in Calcutta during the Civil Disobedience Movement. Since then your services in the Special Branch have been particularly valuable. Your excellent record has fully merited your advancement to the higher title.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI RAZA ALI WASHAT,

Your services in the Imperial Records Department were rewarded with the title of Khan Sahib in 1922. Since then you have joined the Islamia College where, as Secretary of the College Council and an elected representative on the Governing Body, you have rendered very valuable service to the College. Your knowledge of Urdu poetry and its history is unrivalled. You have fully merited advancement to the higher title.

RAI BHUPENDRA NATH BANERJEE BAHADUR,

As a Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, your administration has been characterised by initiative and thoroughness. You did exceptionally well in the communal troubles in Calcutta in 1926 and handled the Civil Disobedience Movement with firmness and success. You have throughout your career proved yourself a loyal, industrious and successful police officer. You received the title of Rai Sahib in 1927 and have fully justified your advancement to the higher title.

RAI AMRITA LALL BHATTACHARJI BAHADUR,

Your services in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement were particularly valuable and your intimate knowledge of the political organisation of the Mymensingh district enabled you to deal effectively with the situation there. You received the title of Rai Sahib in 1921, since when you have continued to maintain a high standard of efficiency. You have thoroughly deserved this further mark of recognition.

RAI MAHENDRA NATH DAS BAHADUR,

You have had an excellent record of service in the Judicial Department in which by your own ability and merit you rose to the high office of a District and Sessions Judge from which post you retired in 1930.

RAI INDU SEKHAR MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

As a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector you rendered consistently good service throughout your long career of over 29 years. You were appointed Additional Presidency Magistrate in 1927 and your work in the Traffic Court earned special commendation.

RAI JNANENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURY BAHADUR,

A public-spirited Zamindar of proved loyalty, you have worked for years for the public good in your own district of Murshidabad. The family of the Nimtita Zamindars, of which you are the leading member, contributed very generously to the construction and maintenance of the school there.

SHIFA-UL-MULK HAKIM SYED MUHAMMAD SADIQ,

You are renowned for your learning in Unani medicine and for your liberality and charity towards your patients. You enjoy a most extensive practice, being the leading Hakim in Calcutta, and are deservedly held in the highest respect among the Mussalmans of the city.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ZAHOOB MUHAMMAD,

You are in charge of intelligence special enquiries on the East Indian Railway and were responsible for the success of the railway's intelligence system during the strike of 1928 and the

troubles in Howrah and Lillooah in 1930. You have conducted many delicate and troublesome enquiries with discretion and success.

RAI SAHIB MADAN MOHAN CHAKRABATTI,

As an Inspector in the Calcutta Police you are regarded as one of the most efficient officers. You did remarkably well during the 1926 communal riots in the difficult Jorasanko charge. You showed yourself particularly loyal, reliable and efficient during the disturbances arising out of the Civil Disobedience Campaign.

RAI SAHIB SUKUMAR BANERJEE,

You have a good record of 27 years' service and were promoted to be Assistant Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, in 1922. In the severe test of the Civil Disobedience Campaign your ability to handle difficult situations with tact and firmness and your efficiency and power of control were amply proved.

RAI SAHIB AKHOY KUMAR GANGULI,

As an Inspector of Police you rendered conspicuous service during the communal riots in Howrah in 1926, the industrial strike of 1928 and the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930. During the political troubles of last year you showed admirable courage in discharging your duties and your age did not deter you from setting an excellent example to your men.

RAI SAHIB PROMODE NATH MUKHARJI,

As Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tipperah, at the time of the Civil Disobedience Movement you assisted the Superintendent throughout with courage and complete disregard for your own safety.

RAI SAHIB KISHORI MOHAN MUKHARJI,

You have done excellent work as an Inspector of Police in charge of the most important section in the Intelligence Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department, Bengal. You have displayed great energy and devotion to duty and have a blameless record.

RAI SAHIB JAGAT BANDHU BHATTACHARYYA,

Having joined the Calcutta Police Force as a Sub-Inspector in 1915, you quickly rose to the rank of Inspector. You have to your credit a long record of rewards and commendations for good work in connection with the revolutionary organisation. As an officer of outstanding ability, energy and reliability you have fully deserved the title conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB AHI BHUSAN CHATTERJI,

You entered the service of Government in 1903 and have been a reporter to the Bengal Legislative Council since 1910 and confidential assistant and stenographer to successive Members of the Bengal Executive Council. Your work throughout has been commended for diligence, accuracy and integrity.

RAI SAHIB NRIPENDRA NATH MAJUMDAR,

You were recruited to the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, in 1907 and have by industry and merit worked your way up to your present rank of Officiating Assistant Director. You have displayed outstanding ability in your work both in its technical and administrative branches.

K.-I.-H. (Silver) Medal.

MR. YEN SINGH,

You have done excellent work in the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling, where you have carried out your professional duties very satisfactorily. Your care and devotion has largely increased the popularity of the hospital amongst the Hillmen.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the *Kaisar-i-Hind* Medal of the Second Class for public service in India.

K.-I.-H. (Silver) Medal.

RAI SHYAMA CHARAN BHATTARCHARJI BAHADUR,

You have rendered valuable services to the Bhatpara Municipality as its Vice-Chairman for which you were awarded the title of Rai Bahadur in 1910. Your continued good work in that capacity has won for you this further recognition.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the *Kaisar-i-Hind* Medal of the Second Class for public service in India.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Conference of Union Board
Presidents on 3rd December 1931.***

MR. SINGH ROY AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to come here to-day and start the Conference of Union Board Presidents on its way. As many of you know, I am a firm believer in the utility of the institutions which you represent and I am confident that nothing but good can come out of a gathering such as we have here to-day. Though you are drawn from different communities and professions and come here from different parts of the Province, you are all imbued with a spirit of public service and a single-hearted desire to further the cause of local self-government; and with such ideals and interests animating your activities, the very variety of your individual experience should be of assistance in enabling the Conference to consider the problems before it in a practical way and with due regard to the realities.

It is just over twelve years since the Act under which you were constituted and function was placed upon the Statute Book of the Province. Twelve years is a very short time in the life of a Province and of its self-governing institutions, but already we see the most remarkable progress under the Act. Prior to 1919 there was already in existence pretty well all over the Province a complete system of local administration which people understood and with which, for lack of knowledge of anything better, they were in many cases content. When Lord

Sinha's Act was passed, its promoters envisaged a network of some 5,000 Union Boards for the whole Province. Over 4,300 of these were already in existence at the end of the year 1929-30 and I am told there will be over 4,500 by the end of the current year. Indeed, some districts—like Dacca, for example,—have already completed the process of substituting the Union Board for the old Panchayati Union, and broadly speaking, it is only the more backward and less promising areas which now remain to be included in the Union Board organisation. When I say "less promising," I am afraid I must include certain areas in which political factors rather than a fair consideration of the inherent merits or demerits of the Act have been the main obstacle to the progress of the movement. In such areas the Act and the institutions set up under it have been misrepresented in various ways. The people have been told that the substitution of the Union Board for the Panchayati Union represents an attempt by Government to secure a strangle-hold over local affairs. But, gentlemen, I would ask you, who have had experience of both systems,—Which body is the more democratic, the more powerful, the more useful and independent,—the old nominated Panchayet (which had no powers at all except, with the Collector's approval, to assess and levy a tax to pay the chaukidars) or the elected Union Board which has powers to make roads, maintain schools and dispensaries, improve water-supply and dispense justice and to do a host of other things which, twelve years ago, were done, if done at all, by a district or local board with a Government official as Chairman? And then again there is the

taxation bogey: the villagers are told that the introduction of the Union Board will mean additional taxation. The Union Board has to raise money to pay its chaukidars just as the old Panchayeti Union had to do. Beyond that the imposition of taxation is in the hands of the Board itself, and I think we can fairly claim now to have reached a stage of enlightenment, in which the power to meet purely local needs by the voluntary imposition of local taxation is recognised to be not an evil but a boon. Speaking, however, as I am to-day, to the converted, I need hardly dwell on these objections. The rapid extension of the Union Board system and especially the encouraging manner in which the boards have realised their responsibilities, and have voluntarily adopted measures of local taxation to meet the demands of their localities for improved communications and water-supply and other public utilities, show that the people of the Province have in the main been reasonably quick to appreciate the possibilities of the Act and to realise how little validity, after all, those objections had which were raised (and in many cases, I recognise, raised in perfect good faith) both when the Act was first introduced in Council and locally when extensions of the Union Board system to successive areas were under consideration.

It has not been merely over the extension of the Act that you and we have encountered difficulties. In some areas Union Boards, in spite of their good work for the localities they serve have from the outset been made the object of attack by those whose policy seems to be to oppose everything initiated or encouraged by Government. It was so

in 1920—in the days of the Non-co-operation Movement—and it was so again recently during the Civil Disobedience Movement of last year and this. It is, I think, a great tribute both to the value of the boards themselves and to the commonsense of the general population that in spite of systematic political propaganda waged against them, the boards have for the greater part maintained their progress, and gained rather than lost in popularity and usefulness. There is no logical reason, that I have heard of, why this political attack should have been directed against public bodies which are elected on a broad democratic basis and which are almost entirely concerned with the provision of amenities of life in the localities which they serve. But the attack has been made and may be repeated, and I wish to take this opportunity of assuring you that Government recognise the difficulties under which many of you Presidents and your fellow-members have had to work: we believe that the bold stand which you have made against outside political interference and obstruction is in the best interests of the people who have elected you to your present positions; and we are confident that in refusing to sacrifice your boards and the good work carried on by them to political ends in which they have no concern, you have shown yourselves to be true patriots and real workers for the country's good. Local self-government must be carried on, whatever form the Central and Provincial Governments may take, and if the system in force requires improvement there are constitutional ways (of which one is illustrated by our meeting here to-day) of setting in motion the process of amendment. The vast

majority of the people of Bengal have now clearly demonstrated their confidence in the underlying principles of the Union Board system and I trust that you will continue for the future, as in the past, to resist all attempts that may be made to paralyse your local institutions or to exploit them for political ends,—all attempts, in fact, to deprive the people of the benefits of an Act which Lord Ronaldshay rightly called “the villager’s charter.”

Apart, however, from the usefulness of the Union Board from the point of view of the provision of public utilities in the mufassal,—which must, of course, be its main object,—there is another aspect upon which I have touched before and which I wish to stress to-day. We are on the eve of great constitutional changes; we cannot yet fully appreciate what the immediate future may bring forth. But of one thing we may be certain,—that the new constitution, when it comes, will confer greater powers (perhaps almost complete powers) on the electorate. I have felt ever since I came to Bengal—and I feel it more strongly the longer I am here—that in this system of village self-government we have the real democracy, the real rule of the people, by the people, for the people, in Bengal. You have these 4,000 odd Union Boards: just think what that means in terms of democratic government. Nearly 40,000 Presidents and Members who are receiving a practical training in the management of local affairs! What a reservoir this constitutes for the political life of the Province! And, as I said at Dacca only the other day, what a chance is here to train men who will in time redress the balance in our Provincial and Central Legislatures,—the balance between

town and country. Nine-tenths of India lives in the villages: these men know where the shoe pinches: only when a greater number of them reach the Councils of the Province and the Central Legislature will these bodies truly reflect the interests of the country as a whole. And then you have the electorate,—nearly 250 lakhs of voters called upon to make their choice, not in matters which might well be above their heads—like the Gold Standard and cognate subjects recently before the electorate in England—but on matters of immediate domestic concern in which, if they take the trouble, all can take an intelligent interest,—rural roads, rural water-supply, public health, primary education. While the supply of these primary amenities and the provision of rural police are undoubtedly the first objects of the Union Board system, that system seems to me to serve a most important subsidiary purpose in that it constitutes the true school of democracy in this Province.

Well, gentlemen, I have tried this morning to deal with the institutions which you represent in the broadest possible way, and I have not attempted to go into the details of what, as boards, you can do and cannot do. I should have liked, had I had time, to touch on the potentialities which are opened out by the Act in the direction of water-supply and public health: I should have liked to give you a word of advice on what seems to me to be another very valuable side of the Union Board system,—the Union Courts,—a point upon which I have only time now to say “keep your judicial system simple: let your justice be not only pure, but cheap and expeditious:” I should have

liked also to tell you how much the Veterinary Department of my Government relies on the Union Boards to help in the prevention and treatment of cattle diseases and in the improvement of the breed and the health of Bengal's cattle,—matters which have been placed within your power by the amending legislation sponsored by my friend Rai Keshab Chandra Banerjee Bahadur in the last session of the Legislative Council. There is not time for me to go into these matters this morning: I allude to them only because these are powers which you already possess,—perhaps I should rather say responsibilities which you are called upon already to discharge to the best of your abilities with the resources at your disposal. I do not doubt that the future will bring other powers and other responsibilities. The Act of 1919 was not the final word in village self-government in Bengal. In the 12 years which have elapsed since the Act was passed, we have had time,—both Government and the District and Union Boards,—to acquire a good deal of valuable experience both as to its possibilities and as to its defects. That experience will, I hope, be at your disposal in your deliberations to-day and to-morrow, and the object of this Conference is, I take it, to discuss the working of the Act in the light of that experience and, where necessary, to devise means for taking fuller advantage of the possibilities and for curing the defects of Lord Sinha's great enactment.

I am glad that in your deliberations you are to have the assistance of the Chairmen of District Boards. The District Boards are a most important link in the chain of responsibility which stretches

from the Imperial Parliament down to the Union Board. They are deeply concerned in your welfare, —if only because your successful administration of your own areas, in respect of those matters which have been entrusted to your care, relieves them to some extent and enables them to turn their energies to other problems urgently awaiting attention. At a recent Conference in Darjeeling I commended the Union Boards to the fostering care of the District Board Chairmen. I am glad to think that their presence here to-day is an indication of their interest and good-will and of their desire to assist in the development on sound and practical lines of the institutions which you represent.

I am particularly glad that this Conference meets with the Hon'ble Mr. Singh Roy in the Chair. In him you have a Minister whom you will find at once zealous and sympathetic : I have good reason to know that he has the advancement of your interests very much at heart.

Gentlemen, it is the last occasion on which I shall have the pleasure of meeting the representatives of Union Boards in conference. In bidding you farewell, let me take the opportunity once again of expressing my appreciation of your work and your assistance to Government. I would ask you to persevere, for by so doing you are strengthening the foundation of good Government in Bengal.

It gives me great pleasure, gentlemen, to meet you here this morning and to declare, as I now do, this Conference of Union Board Presidents open. I hope your deliberations will be fruitful.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Proceedings of the Annual
General Meeting of the Associated
Chambers of Commerce on the 14th
December 1931.***

GENTLEMEN,

It gave me great pleasure to receive your invitation to take part in the opening meeting of the Associated Chambers to-day, specially as the occasion affords me an opportunity of meeting here so many members of the great European commercial community in India. I am grateful to you, Mr. President, for the kindly welcome you have extended to me to-day. You have reminded me that I attended the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers four years ago shortly after I had arrived in Bengal. I remember the occasion well and I have been thinking of all that has happened in the political and commercial world during that interval of time.

Speaking at this gathering last year Lord Irwin referred to his having expressed some optimistic views which he had been bound to admit had not been justified by events. I am glad to think that on the occasion to which I have referred I did not venture into prophecy as regards the future, either political or commercial. It would, indeed, have required vision far beyond the powers of an ordinary mortal to have foreseen then with any degree of accuracy the conditions prevailing in the world to-day. I am inclined to think that any indulgence in prophecy as regards the immediate future would not be very wise. Prophecy to be at

all attractive should be of an optimistic character. I personally always welcome an optimist in business specially in these times. They have not been very thick on the ground for some time past, but I am reminded of a remark once made to me by a particularly shrewd Yorkshire businessman who said the only time he ever felt justified in indulging in optimism as regards his business was when trade was so bad that it could not possibly be worse.

You have referred to the unusual amount of attention which the Chambers of Commerce have been giving to political matters during this past year. This is but natural. In the first place the political situation in India during the last few years has undoubtedly affected adversely business interests and in the second place it must be your duty to watch with care and concern the progress of events connected with any projected constitutional changes in this country. Every European in Calcutta, as far as I can make out, whatever his age and experience, is to-day taking an interest in political matters,—not, I think, merely as a diversion but, I hope, with every desire to render constructive assistance to Government and the country. That you are alive to the necessity of business and commercial men taking their proper part under these conditions is proved by the presence of your representatives at the Round Table Conference where their activities have been of exceptional value. The necessity for security of British trading interests in India, under any advanced constitutional changes in this country, has, I think, been duly recognised by His Majesty's Government and also as far as I can judge by many

moderate-minded Indians. The statements of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State in the matter of discrimination against British interests must, I think, have given you a large measure of satisfaction. I have heard it estimated that a thousand millions of British capital have been sunk in India in the development of trade in this country,—with what advantage to the country and its inhabitants is patent, save to those who, for their own reasons, venture to question the obvious. The satisfactory utilisation of this capital and the attraction of more which is necessary for development can only be assured by confidence and a sense of security, and an assurance of equality of opportunity and fair dealing in trade. The roots of British trading have gone deep down into the soil of India. The magnificent tree which stands to-day sound and strong without any sign of decay or corruption, could only have attained its wonderful proportions through the stimulation of British enterprise and the fostering of the traditional British fair dealing and integrity. Who would venture to try to uproot it?

I have studied the agenda before the meeting with interest. Most of the subjects appear to be of what I may call of an “All-India” character. It is a short agenda,—which may or may not indicate that you have found less cause than usual for criticism of the central Government. I do not propose to interpose myself for long between you and my distinguished friends of the Government of India who have come to attend your deliberations. Mention in the Agenda of the Income-tax Act, however, raises in me a temptation which I

cannot resist of telling Sir George Schuster,—something which he may have heard before,—that here in Bengal we feel we have been very badly used in the financial settlement which deprived us of any share in the tax on the incomes which once upon a time accumulated in this city and province; I am sure I shall have the unanimous support of this gathering when I say that we in the Provinces expect that when the existing Income-tax “policy” is renewed it will be on a “participatory” as well as on a “contributory” basis, so far as the Provinces are concerned.

We are, as a Province, concerned in the resolution which is to be moved regarding motor vehicle taxation. Legislation in this matter is for the provincial legislatures and so long as this remains the position absolute uniformity between Provinces is difficult of attainment. My Government, however, do fully realise the advantage of preserving uniformity in the principles of motor vehicle taxation as between neighbouring Provinces, and in the Bill at present before the Bengal legislature we have aimed at keeping well below, rather than above, the rates actually imposed in Bihar. Reciprocity of exemption is a matter for negotiation between the Governments of Provinces in which motor vehicle taxation is in force, and I may say that so far as my Government are concerned we would welcome any tendency in this direction and have included in the Bill provisions which would make this possible.

As regards the Resolution suggesting the amendment of the Police Act to abolish liability of industrial concerns to pay for additional police required in time of strikes or disturbances,—this Act

is an All-India Act and we have no local Act on the same subject in this Province. The liability for payment, however, if the Act is amended in the form suggested, will be a provincial one, and I think I can leave you to guess what will be the attitude of any hard-pressed Provincial Government to such a proposal in these times of financial difficulty.

So far as the resolution goes regarding competition of jail products with the products of private concerns,—I think I may plead not guilty. I am told that so far as Bengal is concerned the price of our jail products is so high that no question of competition enters.

The blast of the world crisis which struck us here with cyclonic force affected even the jute trade which had come to be regarded as almost impregnable to attack from any earthly quarter. The world-wide depression accompanied by a record production of jute created a most anxious situation throughout Bengal owing to the fact that 50 per cent. of our population are directly or indirectly dependent upon the jute trade. Considerable pressure was brought to bear on my Government to introduce legislation for the limitation of jute-sewing. For various reasons—of which the chief were that we doubted the advisability and even the practicability of legislative interference in such a matter—we declined to introduce legislation. We preferred to depend upon propaganda designed to bring home to the jute-grower the evils of over-production with a glutted market. My Government do not claim that the reduction in the production of jute during the past year was solely due to their propaganda, but this propaganda undoubtedly played

a large part in bringing home the lessons of the slump to the jute cultivator, who had hitherto been more concerned to produce bumper crops than to worry about the laws of supply and demand. One reason why the propaganda achieved success was that we did not confine it to the negative attitude of pointing out the dangers of further over-production of jute. Our Agricultural Department made a definite point of bringing to the notice of the cultivator the various crops, besides paddy, which could be grown in the different areas where the sowing of jute had been suspended.

This condition of affairs has at all events given us a valuable opportunity of emphasizing the value of the cultivation of sugarcane. I am firmly convinced that there is a great future for the sugar industry in India generally and specially in Bengal. In the first place the market already exists. The import of sugar into Calcutta, mostly from Java, for the quinquennium 1920-24 averaged about 200,000 tons. In the quinquennium 1925-29 the average rose to 325,000 tons, an increase of over 60 per cent. during the past five years. Imports into other Indian ports increased similarly and the total import of sugar into India is now not far short of a million tons per year. The inference is that Indians themselves are taking widely to the consumption of sugar rather than *gur*. Large areas in four out of five divisions in Bengal are eminently suited for growing sugarcane. It is reasonable to expect that the rapid adoption of the Bengal Agricultural Department's high-yielding strains of jute must not only limit the expansion of the area under jute, but even in normal times, may bring about a reduction

of that area.' The Agricultural Department envisages an eventual reduction from this cause by as much as 25 per cent. of the area normally under jute, or about 500,000 acres. If even half of the area thus liberated could be put under sugarcane and if that sugarcane could be locally converted into *gur* for transport to a refinery, we should not need to import a single ton of the 325,000 tons which we are now importing annually into Calcutta alone. We have the market, we have suitable land, we have the cane,—the hybrid known as Co. 213 from the Government of India Breeding Nursery at Coimbatore, which has been found admirably suited to Bengal, though I am informed that the Agricultural Department in this Province is confident of producing an even better cane in the near future. And now, I believe, we also have the machinery. Our Agricultural Department after a series of experiments financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research have produced a small power crushing plant with a capacity of about one ton of cane an hour and an extraction of 70 per cent. and also a cheap *gur* boiling furnace capable of keeping pace with the crusher and of producing *gur* of the high quality required for sugar-making. Both the crusher and the furnace have been in use for two seasons on the estate of a large commercial firm and the results have been endorsed as commercially satisfactory, which is the real test of value.

The areas at present under cane are not sufficiently large or concentrated to justify the establishment of large white sugar refineries in the mufassal, but we believe that even now it would be possible to establish small sugar refining factories

in certain areas and this should be regarded as the intermediate stage, which is probably in any case necessary to accustom the cultivator to selling his cane instead of crushing and boiling it himself. The imports of sugar into Calcutta are valued at between six and seven crores of rupees annually and I see no reason why we should not be able to keep the greater part of that money in Bengal if we take the sugar industry seriously.

The outstanding financial event of the year was unquestionably Britain's decision to abandon the gold standard. This momentous step had world-wide consequences and vitally affected India and the rupee which, of course, had previously, like sterling, been linked to gold.

In this situation the Government of India had to act quickly. The first outward sign of their activities was the declaration of three days' holiday,—a fact which I mention in no spirit of levity but merely to say in passing that I was in Calcutta at the time and that I have nothing but admiration for the manner in which, in the unexpected turn of events and amid the fantastic rumours of the bazar, those responsible for our great banking houses handled the situation, and the general public of India kept their heads.

To the Government of India, I imagine, three courses presented themselves,—each carrying its own obvious risks. If they continued on the gold basis, our gold resources were definitely insufficient to withstand the strain of a prolonged attack on the rupee. To allow the rupee to "float" or find its own level would, in a highly seasonal country like India, invite wide fluctuations, with consequent

speculation, and would result in unstable contracts and a general reluctance to enter into contracts at all. The third course was to link the rupee to sterling, with the risk that possible fluctuations in the latter would directly affect the value of the rupee in relation to gold or to the currency of gold standard countries.

It was the last course that was adopted, and, in the result, the continued weakness of sterling has given a fillip to exports and particularly to shipments of gold which on an average have been valued at about two crores of rupees a week for the past three months. This private export of gold which has, of course, left Government's gold reserve untouched is quite a new departure for India, which has for decades, without any annual break, been a steady importer of gold to an extent which has sometimes caused grave concern to other countries who found it difficult to satisfy their own reserve requirements. These gold exports have had, from Government's point of view, a beneficial bearing on rupee exchange and has enabled Government substantially to increase its sterling resources: and perhaps from any point of view it is not unsatisfactory to find sterilized gold being released for currency and the proceeds becoming available for investment. I believe it is now generally agreed that the policy pursued in this matter by the Government of India has been in the general interest of the country.

Perhaps, before I sit down, I may be permitted to touch on the trade outlook of this great land as I see it,—not with any view, I assure you, to enrol myself among the prophets, but simply to put before you two aspects of the case which may give ground

for hope as to the future. On one of them I have already touched. The British Prime Minister has unequivocally stated that what the present British Government stand for is the effective safeguarding of British trade in and with India from adverse or prejudicial discrimination. The Secretary of State has also laid it down as the policy of Government "there must be no unfair economic and commercial discrimination against British traders." These declarations in the House of Commons must have come as a relief to all who have assisted in the development of the country by providing hundreds of millions in capital: they will go far to ensure a continuation of that life-giving stream and must be welcomed by all who wish to see the country keep pace in its development with the rest of the world.

My other point is this: the huge carry-over of most commodities which India produces gives rise to the almost general opinion that there is overwhelming over-production in these commodities and no doubt, from the point of view of the man who has a large stock to dispose of, this is a correct view of the position. I suppose it is correct that there is very considerable surplus production in relation to purchasing power: but when one realises that hundreds of millions of people in India, China and elsewhere in the East are less than half fed and half-clad, it is difficult to believe that there is over-production in the broader sense,—I mean in regard to requirements. The question then arises,—How can purchasing power best be stimulated in the East? As was almost inevitable—the gold crisis has revived the question of the rehabilitation of silver and the possibility of its fixation at a reasonable

value in relation to gold. I do not know what are the possibilities in this direction and it may be that it will be found on closer examination that nothing useful can be done: but I was interested to read from recent cables that this aspect is engaging the attention of experts in silver-producing and silver-holding countries. The increase of the purchasing power of the vast population in the East is a problem the solution of which would be of inestimable value to the world and bring a ray of hope to countless millions.

Now I must leave you to the serious business before the meeting. As you say, Mr. President, my time in Bengal is fast drawing to a close. The life of a Governor of Bengal provides many problems of varying degrees of difficulty and anxiety, but they are always interesting. The problem of trade and commerce in India, present and future, is one which must demand the constant care and solicitude of any Governor. I am most grateful for your kind wishes for us both for the future. I shall always look back with pleasure on the kindly welcome which this Chamber has always accorded to me.

His Excellency's Speech at the Prize-distribution of St. Thomas' School on 16th December 1931.

MY LORD BISHOP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND BOYS OF ST. THOMAS' SCHOOL,

It has given me very genuine pleasure to come here to-day to visit your historic school, to meet the Governing Body, the pupils and the staff, and to distribute the prizes. This is the first time I have visited your school and I am afraid it must be the last: but now that I have seen it, I very much regret that I had not come here before.

I have listened with great interest to the report which the Principal has just read. I think that, considering the difficulty of the times, it may confidently be accepted as recording another year of faithful service and good progress in the institution.

I heard with some concern what you, Sir, had to say about the health of the school. Through no fault of the Governors, who have made since 1905 three ineffectual efforts to remove the school to a more healthy locality, the school is still located in one of the most thickly populated parts of Calcutta. I take some comfort, however, from the fact that, as I see from past reports, you have access to the best possible medical advice. Epidemics of such childish complaints as measles and mumps are only to be expected,—they are I suppose the bane of all schools in all countries, and from the children's point of view there is a good deal to be said for getting these maladies over and done with while one is still

young ! I have no doubt that the school authorities are keeping in touch with the Public Health authorities with a view to minimising the risks of fever. I hope that next year neither work nor play will be seriously interfered with by troubles of an epidemic nature.

In spite of the handicaps referred to I find that the school has maintained its record both in the class room and on the playing field. I am glad to see that the school gives a wide field of choice to pupils, catering as it does for those who wish to take up a practical career in the engineering workshops, for those who seek to follow professional careers involving matriculation at the University, and also for the Higher Grade Schools Examinations leading to ordinary commercial and vocational careers. This is in the best tradition of the school's past history—from 1849 to 1895 there was a "school of industry" in the school itself—and is, I am certain, the best way in which to equip the pupils for the difficult times which are ahead of them when they leave the shelter of these walls. Examination results are not the only test, but those which the Principal has quoted are very satisfactory, and in endorsing the thanks which he has given to the members of his staff, I wish to put on record the debt which the school owes to Mr. Hider himself for his work for the school since he joined it as the first Principal under the new re-organisation of 1919.

I congratulate those who have just received the reward of their labours. It is very gratifying to win a prize, but prizes do not constitute the only, or, indeed, the most important, fruits of a boy's labours at school. In each class only one or two may win

a prize, but the real fruits of your labours consist in the formation of your minds, your characters and your bodies : and in this you all share, whether you win prizes or not. Here you all have an equal chance of fitting yourselves for the struggle of life : what use you will make of that chance depends partly on your own individual capacities (these you cannot help) : but it depends even more on the way in which you apply yourselves to employ and improve those capacities. My advice to you is to be thorough in everything you do : when it is a case of work, work hard : when it is time for play, play hard. Never at any time loaf around, doing nothing. Let this be your motto,—“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” In that way you will grow up into men of character,—keen, alert, a credit to your parents, your community and your school.

Remember that this school of your's has a long and honourable history. I doubt if there can be any other British institution of any kind whatsoever in Bengal which can look back on a history of over two hundred years. You inherit a great tradition and all those generations of public-spirited men who have successively managed this institution through this long period of history have rendered invaluable service to the poorer children of European descent in Calcutta.

There can be no two opinions about the great value of this school to the communities which it serves : the large proportion of free boarders whom you maintain is proof that such a school is needed ; and in furnishing to poor but deserving boys the means of acquiring a sound education, the school

fulfils a function the importance of which to the community can hardly be over-estimated.

I am glad to see that in games, despite the incidence of boils and mumps, the year's record is good. I hope that next year the cricket team will bear out the promise of this year's side: and I very much hope that steps will be taken to get the scouts going again. I have been associated with the Scout Movement since its very inception in England and I consider it one of the most potent influences for good existing in the world to-day:—for the good of the boys and through the rising generation for the good of all those countries in which this great international movement has taken root. The scouts of this school must “pull themselves together” and not allow themselves to be outdone by their own younger brothers, the Cubs, whom, by the way, I heartily congratulate on winning the Nripendra Wolf Cub Shield for the best all-round pack in Calcutta.

These are difficult times, I know, both for the Church schools and for the community which they mostly serve. So far as the community go, it is a tragedy that at a time when they have need of more, not less, education in order to equip them for the struggle of life in India, they are beset with every kind of difficulty,—reductions in pay and in opportunities of service, and an increase of competition in walks of life which used to be almost exclusively their own. There is, however, no reason to despair. There will always be an opening for boys of the right type,—boys of character, of self-reliance, and of reliability. These are the qualities which I think you must concentrate on developing in your

pupils. And this is where the schools come in,—and particularly the school staff. Nothing, Sir, gave me greater satisfaction in your report than your quotation of the Inspector's opinion that "the policy of retaining trained teachers for every class has been amply vindicated." Mr. Bernard Shaw once remarked "He who can, does: he who cannot, teaches!" There is too often truth in that criticism, I am glad it does not apply in this school. Teaching is an art in itself and we owe it to our schools and to their pupils to give them teachers who know how to "educate,"—how to draw out the best that is in each pupil. While I fully realise the financial strain which the employment of only trained teachers imposes on school authorities, I regard it as the most important thing to aim at in these times when education counts for so much in a boy's prospects. I have it on the authority of the Education Department that probably at no time in the past have the European schools in Bengal been so satisfactorily administered nor the teaching and school life been so carefully organised as at present. On that very satisfactory verdict I have two comments to make: the first is that probably at no time in the past has there been such a need for able administration and careful organisation and teaching: and secondly, that these results are largely due to the recruitment of teachers of higher professional sense, better academic qualifications and sound professional training. It is because I regard the teaching staff as the basis of sound work and progress in the school that I wish this afternoon to do what I can to improve the equipment of the teaching staff in this school. I am told that the

state of the Staff Reference Library in this school leaves much to be desired : it requires new cupboards to shelter its existing supply of books and it requires new books to bring it up to date. It gives me great pleasure to ask the Principal and the Governors to accept a sum of Rs. 300 towards the re-conditioning and re-stocking of the Staff Library.

And now, Mr. Principal, I do not think that the staff should have it all their own way: the provision of works of reference for the staff is not calculated to raise the pupils to any very exalted pitch of enthusiasm. I believe that this school is visited by the Governor of the Province only once in each Governor's term. May I ask that, to celebrate the occasion, a day's holiday may be granted ?

His Excellency's Address to a Representative Group of European and Indian Commercial Men, in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement, on 6th January 1932.

GENTLEMEN,

In the first place I feel that I owe you an explanation, if not an apology, for having asked you at such short notice to meet me in this informal gathering this evening. I am afraid it must have caused some a good deal of inconvenience and I am aware that many of you must have cancelled other engagements in order to come here. My excuse must be the seriousness of the possibilities which open out before us unless the present situation consequent upon the revival of Civil Disobedience is grasped and kept firmly in hand from the outset, and I want the assurance of your support in our determination to grasp the situation at once.

I do not wish to go back over the history of the past two years, or to trace the steps by which we have arrived at the position in which we find ourselves to-day. I suppose we all have our own ideas on that subject, but I want, if I may, to concentrate attention on the position existing at the moment. Events have followed one upon the other very fast during the last few days and we have been presented more or less with what I may call a *fait accompli*. The facts, whether we like it or not, are that on the one side we have the threat of an active renewal of the Civil Disobedience Movement in an intensified form, with all the risks of bloodshed and

civil commotion and all the interference with public and private liberty which that movement inevitably entails: on the other we have the determination of Government to resist coercion both as against itself and as against members of the public, and to maintain that ordered peace, in which alone commerce and industry and, indeed, their own programme of constitutional inquiry and reform, can be satisfactorily carried out.

I do not know whether it is necessary for me to state what I conceive the policy of His Majesty's Government to be with regard to India: that policy was very clearly stated by His Excellency the Viceroy at a public gathering in this City only a week ago. Perhaps, however, in view of what has happened in the meantime, I might remind you in a few words of what the policy is. I do so because, though we shall of necessity be considering mainly one aspect of that policy this evening, it is important that we should keep constantly in mind what the policy is as a whole. Put in the briefest possible terms that policy is, to push on with the work of the Round Table Conference with a view to introducing the constitutional changes which the Premier has outlined, and which have since been approved by Parliament, at the earliest possible moment. And while I am on that point I would only say that the British members of the three Committees which are to tour India in terms of the Premier's statement are expected to sail next week and we are already collecting material to place before them when they reach these shores. This is the main plank in the policy of His Majesty's Government: if it were possible, this would be the

only plank,—*viz.*, to get on with the work of drafting an agreed constitution for India. Unfortunately there is the other side,—the maintenance of peace and order in this country. To the campaign of terrorism—a calamity under which this Presidency has too long suffered—we now have added the threat of Civil Disobedience. Both are movements which seek to paralyse Government by unconstitutional means and both have in the past been pursued regardless of the loss they may cause to individuals or to the country as a whole. The terrorist movement is mainly the concern of Bengal and Government are determined to eradicate it. That, however, is not my subject to-day. As regards the Civil Disobedience Movement I need only repeat the words of the statement just issued by the Government of India,—“if it achieved its object it would make any form of Government impossible. In using their full resources against it the Government of India are, therefore, fighting the battle not only of the present Government but of the Governments of the future. It is particularly incumbent upon them at the present juncture to oppose with their full power a movement which would make constitutional advance impossible”

“While they will take every measure that is necessary for the suppression of a lawless movement and for the protection of public and private liberty they will also spare no effort to bring to completion the policy of His Majesty’s Government.” At this time every interest demands that nothing should be done which will interfere with the recovery of trade. If we miss the chance when it offers it will take years to make up for the mistake.

Now, gentlemen, I have asked you here to-day for two purposes. You are, many of you, engaged in handling and controlling the commerce and industry of this great Port and Province: those of you who are not directly concerned with commerce or industry have at least a considerable stake in the country. I have asked you here, because in the first place I think you ought to know at once from me how Government in Bengal stand as regards this threat of a renewal of Civil Disobedience. If there were ever any doubt about the matter in the minds of any of you, the announcement of the powers with which we have been invested during the past few days and the action already taken under those powers must have made it clear that here in Bengal Government mean to do their utmost to carry out the policy of the Government of India and to discharge their duty to the public. My first purpose then this evening is to give you the full assurance of Government's determination to afford every protection possible to enable business to be carried on, and to secure to individuals—both traders and consumers—complete personal liberty to sell and buy as they themselves desire, unhampered by the tyranny of an imposed boycott. It is no part of Government's policy to force people to buy foreign or British goods,—indeed by its increased tariffs Government seem to be weighting the scales against all imported goods. It is not in the interests either of Indian or foreign producers as such that I am making this statement of policy, but in the interests of personal liberty and I believe in the general interest of India and Indians. We must see trade and commerce and industry given a

chance to revive unhampered by artificial restrictions like political boycotts. Bengal is, in the ordinary way of things, I believe, pre-eminently in a position to take the earliest advantage of any revival of trade in the world: we cannot allow the opportunity, when it comes, to be missed because certain Indian leaders, who have been given every possible facility for constitutional action to secure their political aims, would appear to prefer unconstitutional methods and to risk the economic ruin of their country. That is, in my opinion, a completely perverted form of patriotism. Such a policy is fraught with immense danger to the country as a whole and—to come nearer home—must very quickly cause in many parts of this Province a volume of agrarian discontent and violence which will bring ruin to landlords, tenants and *mahajans* alike. What we all want most in this Presidency,—Government, commercial men, land-owners, lawyers, tenants, every one, in fact, but the professional agitator,—is a return to the prosperity of three or four years ago. For that internal peace is a necessity: so is freedom of trade between man and man,—the right of the individual to buy where and what he wishes and can afford. That is what Government aim at ensuring in the present struggle. Given a free voice I have little doubt which policy the bulk of the people will acclaim.

My second purpose is to ask you to co-operate with Government in securing this individual liberty. We want your support on the general principle involved. We equally want your co-operation in the application of that principle. We are already dealing with the boycott evil in a broad

way : we have an anti-molestation Ordinance, but if we are to enforce it, as we mean to do, we shall require your co-operation. So-called "peaceful picketing" has been declared illegal, but if we are to deal with it we shall require complaints from the public and evidence in court. Government will deal, and are dealing, with the societies and associations which preach and practise the policy of boycott for political ends, but Government expect the co-operation of the victims of the boycott and picketing. It will not do to sit, as so often is the case in India, and wring your hands because your places of business are being picketed. The most effective help you can give is to inform the police and then go into court against the picketer. There are many ways in which you can fight your own battle and help Government to fight your battle. I believe that if the leaders come out boldly from the outset there will be little battle left to fight. My second purpose, then, this afternoon is to invite you to give Government your active co-operation in this matter. I have told you some of the ways in which you can help us. We want to know how we can help you. You all had experience of the last attempt which was made to hold the trade of the country to ransom. Give us the benefit of that experience. I do not ask you here and now to suggest schemes for dealing with boycott and picketers : many of you will want time to consider things ; suggestions will occur to you from time to time, and you will be guided by a study of how things go. I am more concerned this afternoon to say that we invite your co-operation : we are on the side of open and unrestricted trade : we invite you

for the good of the country as a whole and for your own good as citizens and men with something to lose, to stand together against this menace and so ensure that when the present world-wide depression lifts and markets elsewhere resume their wonted activity, the millions in Bengal are not deprived of the benefit.

All would hope that the people of Bengal will themselves show that they have no faith in Civil Disobedience as the best method of securing their political ambitions. It would, indeed, be a triumph if this actually happens, and in my opinion would do more than anything else to prove their claim to the right to responsibility to manage their own affairs.

Well, gentlemen, that is what I wanted to say to you. We have hardly time to hold a full discussion and in the nature of things my invitation to you must be of a standing nature to be availed of as occasion arises. If, however, anyone has anything to say before we break up, this is an informal gathering and I have no doubt we shall all be prepared to stay a little longer.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Rotary
Club Dinner on 12th January 1932.***

GENTLEMEN,

I believe you have a custom, a very good one, that at these Rotary gatherings the speaker should confine his remarks to his subject.

One of the privileges of a Governor, and I do not know how he would get on without it, is that he is allowed to wander from his subject often with a latitude and at times with a longitude, which I fear makes some demand upon that patient and forbearing attention which is always accorded to his position. I have no intention, however, to stray very far, but I do desire to express my gratitude for the invitation you have extended to Lady Jackson and myself which enables us to meet so many friends. It also gives me the opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the very laudable endeavours which are being made through Rotary to inspire men in India with your ideal of service. Through the medium of Rotary men of all nationalities and creeds can meet in an atmosphere in which they can breathe without a gasp and there can be no question that if they can assimilate the ideal of service in their lives they can assist in making the world go round more smoothly than it does at the present time. For these reasons I sincerely wish your movement in India wide support and all success.

I have been concerned as to what I should talk about to-night, but as the time rapidly approaches

when I shall lay down the duties I have endeavoured to discharge as Governor of this Presidency, it seems appropriate that in addressing the Rotary movement, with its ideal of service in business, I should draw the parallel between your aims and those which bring men into public life. For the efficient working of modern democratic governments it is an essential that a large number of men of ability—possessing, perhaps, talents that in the ordinary course of business might bring them large material awards—should devote themselves to a public career that can offer them no such prize and not infrequently ends in eclipse and disaster. Speaking of Great Britain, a recent writer on this subject has said “Do we not habitually assume that public service is its own reward, is not this country famous in all the world for the great quantity of laborious and efficient work which its citizens contribute for the mere love of it, or for no reward more tangible than the approval of their fellow citizens”? Nor is it at all certain, I would add, that the man who thus devotes the best years of his life to public service will gain any reward whatever. Trafalgar did not serve to relieve the gloom in which Pitt, that great architect of Europe’s victory over Napoleonic ambition, passed away after the capitulation of Ulm. Disraeli died when everything for which he had worked seemed to be in ruins. The policy to which Gladstone devoted the last 12 years of his life seemed shattered beyond repair at the moment of his death. A Minister, it has been said, is never so little in favour as when he is in power and if that is a half truth, the disappointments of public life must be many and serious to

those of sensitive disposition. "The public man" writes Mr. J. A. Spender, "needs the triple brass which is proof against mortification and disappointment, criticism and invective, wounds to vanity and self-esteem, if he is to live with any comfort through a long career. If his triumphs are great his disasters are on the same scale and the same enormous publicity attends his downfall as his exaltation."

Yet with all these hazards men choose the public life, and hitherto there has never been failure in our history of the supply of men adequately equipped to hold the highest offices in the State, and, what is more remarkable, to do that unceasing round of hard public work which is necessary for the running of the thousands of minor public bodies and which carries with it no hope of distinction. Some inner urge drives men who have leisure and wealth ample to enable them to enjoy that leisure, to choose to devote their services to the State. In many families we find the tradition persisting generation after generation. No man can readily estimate the contributions that have been made to the nation by families, like the Cecils or the Greys, the former with a devotion to public work carried on for 300 years and still continuing. Had talents, such as these families have given to the nation, been devoted to commerce or the law, huge rewards would have been gathered. It is to their honour that the great political families, even those coming down from an age when public service had prizes commensurate with its perils, have remained poor in comparison with the commercial masters of millions.

A hundred instances could be quoted of the spirit that has compelled men to sacrifice great emoluments in their zeal for public service. The late Lord Oxford, Mr. Asquith, as I knew him best, gave up a splendid career at the Bar, with an income that promised him a large fortune, to serve in Parliament, to hold the Premiership for the longest period in modern history and to die a poor man. To join the National Government Lord Reading, whose public services in the highest positions have absorbed many years of his life, was called from highly remunerative commercial office to take his seat in the Cabinet and did not hesitate at the personal sacrifice involved. The services that Mr. Baldwin has given, and is still giving, to the nation are rendered at the sacrifice, as is well known, of vast industrial emoluments and have been accompanied by his direct surrender to the State of a fifth of his personal fortune. And who can estimate what a leader like our present Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, has risked and sacrificed in pursuing his ideals in the service of his country? I need not multiply instances. The man in British public life who rises to the highest offices that are open to him must be prepared for sacrifice. It may be a short-sighted policy on the part of the nation; but it is a fact that the salary of the Prime Minister has long been so inadequate to the demands upon it that no man can occupy that position without private means. A Parliamentary career may appeal to a man as providing the road to advancement in his profession or business, but if such a man aspires to a high place in public life he must abandon all else and devote himself, whether in office or in

opposition, to the affairs of the State. There is no life more exacting than that of the public man and success in it is only to be gained by those prepared to surrender their whole time to its pursuit. One of the reasons for the high position our public life holds in the eyes of the world is that men of great position and well endowed have taken up public life with the sole object of service.

From the days when what I may call the "spoils" system in public life was almost universal, the pendulum has swung almost dangerously towards the other extreme. Many men leave public life poorer financially for the service they have given. That in those circumstances the supply of men willing to make the sacrifices demanded remains adequate is the highest possible testimony to the existence of a real public spirit. It may, of course, be said that the public man has other rewards, in the shape of titles and honours. That inducement operates to a far less extent than is generally supposed; for no man entering on a public career can or does look forward to any such recognition. Moreover, even these distant and visionary distinctions grow ever less certain, and the examples of Canada and South Africa have shown that their complete withdrawal does not stay the supply of men willing to give their best energies to public service. There is a stimulus far higher than the thought of possible public advantage. For those who would be statesmen it is necessary to believe that the world process is based on some benevolent design that can be promoted by human effort. With that faith men go forward to real sacrifice of personal aims.

Upon this zest for public service the record of our Empire has been built up. Men may have adventured into the unknown and into the waste spaces of the earth for the lure of personal gain ; but everywhere on their heels have come the administrators and the law-givers who have worked very largely for the love of work and the value of whose work has frequently only been recognised long after they have passed away.

Kipling has said in one of his finer poems :—

“ We have strawed our best to the weed’s unrest,
To the shark and the sheering gull ;
If blood be the price of Admiralty,
Good Lord ! we ha’ paid in full.”

And what is true of the sea is true of the Empire on land—men for small and inadequate rewards have given their energies and their lives to the ideal that was in them, have died and in most cases have been forgotten, but with the knowledge in their hearts that the work of which they would never see the fruition would surely have its harvest.

What is true of the whole Empire I claim to be true in a special degree of India. It was of India that Lord Curzon spoke when he said, “ it is the highest honour that can be placed on any subject of the Queen that in any capacity, high or low, he should devote such energies as he may possess to its service.” In that spirit generations of men have come to India, have exiled themselves from their own people and their familiar surroundings, have borne here sorrow and grief and yet have carried on in the belief that here was work worthy to be done. In the now long line of Viceroys of India there have been few who were not men of great possessions,

with homes in England that had twined about their hearts, with duties that might engage all their days, with family concerns needing their attention—men to whom service in India with all its difficulties and trials could give nothing that they did not possess, and who have nevertheless not hesitated, at what they believed to be the call of duty, to lay all aside and serve India and their own country. In a passage of poignant eloquence which is too long to quote this evening Lord Curzon has finely expressed the heartache and the tearing of the deeper passions that come to those who have served India in the highest office under the Crown and how, upborne by nothing but a sense of duty, these men have toiled on at their posts.

To the eternal honour of the Viceroy of India their service to India represents sacrifice. By their example they have ennobled the whole philosophy of public life.

If I have chosen this particular subject upon which to talk to you this evening it is not only because I feel that the tradition bred in the public life of the British, marches with the aims that you have chosen as the inspiration of Rotary, but because I believe that the tradition fostered in India by men of our race, and carried down through every rank of the public service is something that is destined to have great consequences for the India of the future. With the gradual establishment in this country of self-governing institutions there must be a swelling call to men of all the Indian races for service to the State. India has her own ideals of service. The missionary's life of labour and of poverty, appeals to an instinct deeply planted

in the Indian nature, and there can be no dearth of the true spirit of service among a people which has produced bodies of social workers like the Servants of India Society. But it is rather of public life—public political life—that I am speaking to-night. In this sphere it must be said that India has her opportunities and her temptations largely before her. The new tasks of legislation and administration cannot be regarded as opportunities for personal aggrandisement or for some division of the spoils. If they were, the long work of training India in the ideals of Western Government would have failed, and the British mission in India would lack its consummation. Happily anybody who has had experience in India can already cite examples of men who have not fallen behind in their willingness to put the good of the country before all personal consideration, and we may reasonably hope that the experience of the future will not belie the promise of the past. To the thousands of Indian young men who look forward to a career in politics I would say that that career will be a success to the extent to which they are willing to regard public life not as something merely, or even mainly, bringing rewards, but as something whose achievement will be measured by what they have given to the people who have entrusted them with power and opportunity. If India should learn that lesson to the full, then, if Great Britain abandons to Indian hands the responsibility she has discharged, she will still feel that she has given to India the finest of her gifts, in a noble tradition of public life.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Bengal Legislative Council
Session on 1st February 1932.***

GENTLEMEN,

The Council meets to-day under conditions of unusual interest though of considerable gravity. Since the Council was last in session much has happened in Bengal and in India and throughout the world to create a situation, political and economic, which has given and still gives cause for serious concern to all who carry responsibility. The main responsibility of members of this Council, however, must be primarily to the people of Bengal, and I shall bear this in mind in the remarks which I shall address to the Council this afternoon. In times like these I feel that, whilst it may not be possible to ignore the present or the past, it will probably prove most profitable if one's eyes are turned for the most part upon the future. It appears to me that the most valuable help will be forthcoming from the constructive mind and outlook rather than from hypercritical and regretful recrimination.

I admit it is not easy to take a very cheerful view of the immediate future. The economic and financial difficulties with which we are faced are not conducive to optimism. All must be aware of the havoc which the world crisis, accompanied unfortunately by internal political disturbance which must bear some of the blame, has played with the finances of this Province. Since the introduction of the Reforms of 1920 our financial position,

owing to various causes, has never been anything but precarious. Any cause which even slightly affected our ordinary revenue was certain immediately to produce the prospect of a deficit, so close to the margin have we had to work in the bare running of the administration. Any promising source of expanding revenue has been completely barred to us. The world crisis, which so seriously affected the staple industries of Bengal, with the consequent shortage of money throughout the Province, has had its immediate effect upon revenue which has shown a very serious decline during the last two years. I think it can be justly claimed that the expenditure upon administration has not been extravagant: in fact in many respects expenditure has been cut to a level almost below the minimum consistent with ordinary efficiency. Government have done their best, both by retrenching existing expenditure and by stopping almost all expenditure upon development and new schemes, to meet the situation created by declining revenue and have, as you know, at the same time imposed a cut of 10 per cent. on all salaries over Rs. 40. I am not going any further to anticipate the budget statement of my Hon'ble friend, the Finance Member: he must tell his own tale with as much cheerfulness as the subject under present conditions will allow. I am sure I can count on the House to give him the sympathetic assistance that the needs of the situation demand.

The economic position throughout the rural districts has, of course, reacted both to world conditions and to local misfortunes and has been a matter of serious concern to Government. The prices of

such money-producing crops as jute and paddy have rarely been lower, though fortunately low prices have been accompanied by abundance of food-stuffs. In some areas much damage and consequent distress have been caused by floods. One gleam of satisfaction has been a fair rise in the price of jute and our latest reports indicate that on the whole the economic situation throughout rural Bengal shows a distinct improvement on the conditions obtaining and anticipated six months ago. It has, however, been deemed advisable to endeavour, by the same means as were adopted last year, to restrict the sowing of jute in the hope that by avoiding over-production the present price, which is possibly just economic, may be preserved. It has also been necessary, in the areas affected by floods and other visitations, to provide funds both in the shape of gratuitous relief to help to mitigate the immediate sufferings of those affected and in the shape of agricultural loans which are the most efficacious way of helping the cultivators to repair their losses. I should like here to acknowledge on behalf of Government the valuable assistance, monetary and otherwise, which has been rendered by many organisations and newspapers. This has been of immense help in supplementing the work of relief on which Government, through its local officers, has been engaged throughout. In some areas in the Province it has been necessary to introduce relief works, though I am glad to say that this requirement has not been very extensive. If further help is required—as it may be later in the year—Government will meet the situation in the same way, by providing further funds for starting test works and

distributing gratuitous relief and by the most profitable method of giving agricultural loans.

In these times of exceptional financial and economic stress all are called upon to make sacrifices. I hope, however, that there will be a general endeavour, as far as possible, to avoid wholesale discharges which must swell the ranks of the unemployed already pitifully great. This much of hope, at all events, I see in the position: with our fertile soil and our virtual monopoly in the crop on which so large a proportion of our population depend, we here in Bengal should be in a position to take immediate advantage of any improvement in the general position of trade throughout the world.

Another matter in which I think it will be profitable rather to turn our eyes to the future than to keep them fixed on the past is provided by the constitutional changes which have been foreshadowed by the Prime Minister on two occasions. There are many who believe that the root of many of our troubles, political certainly, and possibly economic, is the delay in producing a constitution which will place upon the shoulders of Indians the sobering influence of greater responsibility. However that may be, an opportunity is now afforded to Indians of all classes and communities to bring the constructive mind and outlook to bear upon this great problem. We shall shortly have in our midst the committees which have been appointed to enquire on the spot into the vital questions of franchise and of federal finance, two subjects, both of which must be of as great interest as they are of importance to Bengal. This House will, I am sure, welcome the inclusion upon the Franchise Committee of an old

friend and colleague in Sir John Kerr. With a population of 50 millions in which the two great communities are almost equally divided, the basis of the franchise must be a matter of the greatest concern. My Government were requested to appoint a Provincial Committee to advise and act with the Central Committee. Government would have preferred to have consulted the House as regards the composition of this Committee, but the notice was short and the matter would not permit of delay. Government had, therefore, to proceed at once to appoint a Committee which they have done after consultation with leaders of various parties of this Council and of communities outside. It was a matter of regret that representatives of other political opinion not represented in this House have not seen their way to suggest nominees for membership of the Provincial Committee.

As regards the Finance Committee, this is a small Committee whose deliberations on the future financial settlement as between the Centre and the Provinces must be a matter of most vital importance to this Province. I am not yet clear how this House can help the Government of Bengal in placing the case of the Province before this Committee, but the House will need no assurance that my Government realise to the full the extent to which the possibility of satisfactorily working any scheme of Provincial autonomy in Bengal depends upon our obtaining a fair and equitable financial settlement which hitherto we certainly have not enjoyed. I am confident that in pressing our case we shall receive the fullest support from all quarters of this House.

At the commencement of my remarks I referred to the exceptional conditions under which this Council meets here to-day. Even in normal times, when we are relatively free from economic and constitutional anxieties, we are wont to regard peace and tranquility as essential for progress and prosperity: in times of exceptional stress such as we are now experiencing and, I trust, passing through, I should have thought that it would have been generally recognised that the only course of safety was for people to "get together,"—to co-operate with Government and among themselves to solve the constitutional problems that are before the country and to tide over the economic crisis. I have little doubt that the wish of the vast majority of the people of this country is for peace,—peace to admit of an advance towards a settlement of their economic and their constitutional problems. There is one section of opinion, however—very definitely a minority as the events of the past month have shown—which has chosen this of all moments to endeavour to divide the country and to force upon Government the necessity of diverting its attention from the promotion of constitutional reform and economic revival to the formulation of special measures designed to safeguard the State against disruption and the individual against attacks on his personal liberty. For these are the sole objects of the recent Ordinances. I am not here to apologise for the Ordinances. The issue of special Ordinances has been forced upon Government by those who, whether secretly by bomb and pistol or openly by methods no less unconstitutional, have declared in specific terms their intention of bringing

the administration to a standstill and of forcing upon the Government and people of this country the will of a minority. The open challenge contained in the threat to revive the Civil Disobedience Movement was a challenge which no Government could for a moment hesitate to take up. To meet it the Government of India have armed themselves and the local Governments with special powers which are, and were intended to be, of a wide and drastic nature. In doing so the Government of India were only arming themselves against the possibilities which past experience and the explicit threats of the Working Committee appeared to render imminent. No one will be better satisfied than the authors of these same Ordinances if their provisions need not be further put into effect. Let me make it clear once and for all to this House that the Ordinances are directed solely against those who engage in movements subversive of the safety of the State and the liberty of their fellow-citizens. No law-abiding person need have any apprehension in regard to them. Indeed the condition of this Province after a month of the Emergency Powers Ordinance—the small extent to which it has been found necessary to employ its provisions or those of any other of the new Ordinances—amply demonstrates that the Ordinances are not, as they are sometimes represented to be, engines of oppression : they are rather the reserve of power which the Government have taken to themselves and extended to their officers to meet, if need arises (and only if need arises), a condition of affairs in which the only alternatives are a firm exercise of authority or complete anarchy and chaos. This is

the spirit in which the Ordinances were promulgated and it is the spirit in which they are being operated in this Province. The sooner we can give up this reserve of power the better we, as a Government, shall be pleased : but so long as the emergency persists, this reserve of power must be retained and, where necessary, utilised. I wish to make myself perfectly clear and explicit on this point.

Unfortunately in this Province we have been and still are confronted with the activities of certain gangs whose object is to terrorise Government and its officers and any who stand in the way of their nefarious designs. Since last this Council met we have witnessed attacks on officers,—European and Indian,—and on members of the public. Government have been given special powers and have undertaken special measures to afford protection both to their officers and to the public—for, make no mistake about it, the menace of terrorism, once it takes deep root, will not be confined to those who may from time to time be in the position of exercising executive or judicial functions in the public service : already we have had ample proof that the lives of witnesses, of men in public life, of men of property are subject to attack at the hands of those who do not scruple, in the furtherance of their revolutionary conspiracy, to make use of young girls as the instruments of their murderous designs. I say we have been given special powers for dealing with this menace : we are using and mean to use those powers until the menace is eradicated. But I venture to repeat here what I have already said in public elsewhere that the main remedy against terrorism—the remedy which will most quickly,

surely and permanently render its continued existence impossible in this country—is the manifestation of that detestation and refusal to tolerate its existence which all decent citizens must certainly feel and which many of you have expressed to me in private. If public opinion demands its cessation and if the public of all classes will come forward to help in its eradication the movement must perish. It is that public opinion which I am anxious to see mobilised and I feel that in this respect you all carry an individual responsibility as members of this Council. The direction to which I must look for a lead in the formation of sound public opinion must obviously be the direction of this House, containing, as it does, the elected representatives of the people. The opportunity of giving such a lead to the Province, and to other Provinces similarly threatened, will undoubtedly be yours during the session now commencing. I trust, and I appeal to you, that the opportunity be not allowed to pass unheeded.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Asiatic Society, Bengal, on 1st February 1932.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is always a pleasure to me to attend the deliberations of this learned Society but this year the pleasure cannot but be dimmed by the grief which we all feel at the circumstances which have occasioned the absence of the out-going President, Colonel Seymour Sewell. We condole with him very sincerely in the loss which he has suffered. His charming and kind-hearted lady was not only beloved by all who knew her but was a true help-mate to him in his every undertaking and pursuit. It was her custom, also, as I understand, to perform for the Society many little domestic services of a kind which only a woman can render. We regret further that the abolition, for reasons of high financial policy, of the post which Colonel Sewell has so brilliantly held, renders it unlikely that we shall see him back among us. It is all the more satisfactory, therefore, that the Society should have been able to mark its high esteem of Colonel Sewell's scholarship by the award to him this year of the coveted Barclay Memorial Medal, the recipients of which furnish an array of names of the highest scholarly merit.

We may congratulate ourselves that, for the second time, Dr. Brahmachari was available to step into the breach and to officiate as President when the news of his wife's illness took Colonel Sewell

to England. I think we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Brahmachari for his most interesting and valuable address. The unabridged copy, which I have had the pleasure of studying, is full of good matter and I can only express the hope that his eloquent plea for a reprieve for the scientific departments of the Government of India which are threatened with the headman's axe will reach the ears for which it is intended.

The hand of death has been busy in the ranks of the Society during the year under review, but even in the melancholy matter of its losses I think we may claim that a fine aspect of the Society's constitution finds illustration,—namely, the stability of its core and the sustained loyalty of its members. That among the 10 members who died during the year no less than six had been connected with the Society for over 25 years and one for over half a century is in itself a striking demonstration of the attraction of the Society for genuine scholars and a welcome corrective of a perspective which might otherwise have suffered distortion in a year when bad items have brought us a net loss of 77 members.

By the death of my old friend Pandit Hara Prosad Shastri the Province has lost a distinguished Sanskritist who for nearly half a century has been an international name and whose place it will be hard to fill. He was engaged upon his great work for the Society,—the cataloguing of our vast store of Sanskrit manuscripts,—up till almost the day of his death. Sir Richard Temple, who joined the Society so far back as 1878, was a servant of the Empire and a servant of learning,—equally distinguished in both spheres of a rich and mellow

life. His Highness the Maharaja of Benares, whose hospitality I enjoyed for a few hours only last July, was an example of those enlightened Princes who, true to the Indian tradition of reverence for erudition, are not prevented by their exalted position from sharing in the labours of a simple Society of Learning.

The real value of a learned Society like our's lies in its scholarship and in its published works. Nevertheless its prestige is also reflected in the social sphere and it is, I think, worth remarking that a society must be representative of considerable all-round distinction which numbers among its members six of the new Knights and three of the new C. I. E.'s of the year.

By honouring its predecessors the living generation honours itself, and we must all be grateful to Dr. Brahmachari for his initiative, imagination and zeal in collecting an almost complete set of pictures of the 50 or so distinguished scholars and friends of learning who have presided over this ancient Institution since its inception nearly a century and a half ago. Dr. Brahmachari's interest in the past history of the Society is well known, but one can easily appreciate the time and labour that have gone to the collection of a picture gallery of likenesses of men whose service in India stretches back so far. I congratulate the Society on this acquisition so generously presented by the out-going President in honour of his predecessors: it will be a great pleasure to me presently formally to inaugurate this gallery. I regard it as a collection of great historical value for the Society, for Calcutta and, indeed, for scholarship in general. I cannot refrain

also from a reference to the generous act of my friend, the Hon'ble Sir B. L. Mitter, in presenting to the Society in original a document of considerable historical interest to India—the "Full Power" granted to him by His Majesty under the Great Seal of England constituting him His Majesty's Plenipotentiary at the 12th Assembly of the League of Nations.

The Annual Report tells a tale of another year's work well done, in spite of adverse conditions due to lack of funds. The cataloguing and indexing of the proceedings of the Council is a work which cannot fail to be of value to the Society in the future and good progress is reported with other work in hand. Both in the Annual Report and in the Presidential address the financial problems before the Society have been given insistent and detailed expression. This is only right, for needs will never be met as long as they remain inarticulate, and learning, art and philanthropy should clearly put their difficulties before the world. None of us, I think, but must be impressed by the exposition which our learned President has given of the regrettable results, not only to the Scientific Government Departments concerned but in particular to the Asiatic Society, of financial stringency and consequent retrenchment, public and private. I feel that the appeal made to us and through us to wider circles, public and private, will not be altogether in vain. There is so much that this Society can do for the advancement of pure scholarship and the diffusion of knowledge: we have the raw material, I might almost say "by the ton," in our archives: we have the expert knowledge

among our members to sort out, annotate, classify that raw material and make it available to the wider public of the reading world. You may say "Why not set the experts on to work on the raw material?" Well, one of our chief difficulties is the almost prohibitive cost of printing,—especially printing of the kind I have in mind. It is a very costly thing nowadays to render the fruits of scholarship available for general consumption. Then again take the possibilities of an extension of the Society's exchange list. I can think of no way in which the Society could better extend the scope of its own influence, while benefiting by the labours of similar bodies elsewhere, than by a wide exchange of its publications. But, as the Council have shown in the Annual Report, such an extension is hardly possible so long as the printing of the Society's papers has to be financed from current receipts. In difficult times like these we cannot hope for an extension of our membership and membership fees and Government grants, as the experience of the last few years has once again emphasized, are a very insecure basis on which to run the activities of a Society of this kind. As I said last year,—what the Society needs, if its main activities are to be put on a sound basis, is a Permanent Endowment Fund,—a matter of several lakhs of rupees. We cannot look to a subscription campaign for this. We can but hope that some of those who are well endowed with this world's possessions, either from among our membership or outside it, will recognise the great work which this Society has already achieved and the greater work for which the potentialities exist, and will come

forward with a really princely donation to the General Reserve Fund of the Society. At a time when unprecedented difficulties have arisen in this country, making for misunderstanding between those who have come to this ancient land from across the seas and those who have been born under its generous skies, I have no hesitation in addressing my appeal to Europeans and Indians alike. In the Presidential address a most happy reference has been made to an old emblem used by the Society and to the ideals in the mind of Sir William Jones himself,—both indicative of the true fraternity which should and which can exist between East and West and between the great sections of the population of the country itself. “Reason is one and common to all.” In the republic of letters we are all equal, and because true equality lies in the intellect, the Society has not only its primary scholarly aims, but has, as a natural concomitant of such aims, a spiritual aspect as a peacemaker. Learning and wisdom are essentially peacemakers, and I would hope that this Society would not only maintain but increase its peaceful mission of true unification of all mankind in this sub-continent. The times, then, call for recognition of the work for peace which Societies of this kind cannot but perform if they remain true to their ideals. Is it too much to hope that that recognition will be forthcoming at the hands of the richly endowed and generously minded who are willing to place their country and posterity under an obligation?

I have to congratulate our new President on the distinction conferred upon him by this meeting, and I congratulate the Society also on the distinguished

President it has gained for the year. By this choice the Society reverts to an old practice which has now been in abeyance for many years. Sir Charu Chunder Ghose acted as Chief Justice of Bengal last year: from the year 1797 to the year 1858 no less than six Chief Justices of Bengal occupied the Presidential Chair. I am confident that our new President will follow with distinction the footsteps of his illustrious predecessors. As the Annual Report has reminded us, the year is not likely to be without its problems and its difficulties. The President will certainly require our full support. I can promise him, I am sure, the co-operation of a keen and single-minded Council and the willing assistance of the all-pervasive and ever-cheerful General Secretary to whom the Society owes so deep a debt of gratitude.

Gentlemen, this is the last occasion on which I shall be present at an Annual Meeting of the Society. I thank you, Dr. Brahmachari, for the kind way in which you have alluded to my connection with the Society. It is one of the redeeming features of an arduous and not always entirely happy official position that the Governor, by virtue of his office, is accorded an entrée into many domains of culture and of learning whose doors are only opened to others after hard years of approved apprenticeship. I shall always look back with pleasure on the all too brief period of my active connection with this learned Society. I wish you good-bye and Godspeed.

His Excellency's Speech at the presentation of Jackson Shield at the Boy Scouts' Rally on 5th February 1932.

SIR ALFRED PICKFORD, FELLOW SCOUTS, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN,

I must, in the first place, thank you, Sir Alfred, for the very kind words in which you have welcomed me here to-day. May I say at once that it gives me the greatest possible pleasure to welcome you back to our midst here in Bengal? Your interest in the Scout Movement, while you were a resident of Calcutta, is still fresh in the memories of many of us here. We know that you have kept alive your active association with the movement in England—such a great scout could not have been allowed to sit unemployed—and it is an inspiration to us all to see you back once more in Calcutta, albeit for such a short stay.

I must also thank you all for presenting me with this excellent picture, sewn by a scout from Krishnagar and presented by the Provincial Association.

I do not wish at this hour of the day to delay you with a speech. You have had a busy day and I too have a lot of work waiting for me on my return. I do just want to say one point, and it is this. It is a matter which seems to me specially worth saying to the audience before me to-day. We have here to-day teams drawn from all over Bengal and representative, as I suppose your presence here indicates, of the keenest and, I suppose, the

most expert scouts of the Province. Naturally some, among you, are among the most experienced scouts of the Province. Now what I feel about scouting in Bengal is this. There is admirable material for us to work on and the movement itself is just the kind of sane, healthy character-building activity which the young boy out here—Indian and European—requires to ensure his growing up a good fellow and a useful citizen. We want to get as many of the younger generation into the scout movement as we can: and when we have got them in we want to ensure that the movement is carried on in that sane, healthy, non-political atmosphere which has been its great asset hitherto. This is where you older scouts—you leading scouts—can play your part.

Do not give up your interest in scouting when you leave school. You should regard the time, which you have hitherto given to scouting, as a kind of probation. It has been the time when you were getting all the advantages you could out of the movement: it has been the time when the movement was helping you. When you leave school, if you are keen, if you have really absorbed the scout spirit, you will realise that the time has come when you should think of helping the movement. In doing so you will find you helping yourselves.

It is always a pleasure to me to meet the scouts of this Province, but it is an additional pleasure to come here to-day to present the Shield which bears my name and to decorate three friends who have deserved well of the Scout Movement.

The Shield, which is to be known as the "Jackson Shield," was offered to the Provincial Association by Rai Bahadur Badri Das Goenka and his family who have always been generous supporters of the movement and his offer, coming as it did at a time when the Provincial Association were considering the institution of a provincial competition, was as welcome as it was generous. We are very grateful to the Rai Bahadur for the very handsome trophy which I am presently to present.

As you know, this is the first time that we have held a provincial competition of this kind. We have found it necessary at the outset to limit the competition to one team from each Association, but we believe that the scouting throughout the Province will be stimulated by the healthy rivalry which this competition must arouse. Both here and in what I may call the preliminary rounds which local Associations have conducted, the scouts get an opportunity of displaying their skill and measuring their abilities against those of other troops. This is all good from the point of view of co-ordination and training. I believe that the competition has a wider aspect still. It will help the scouts scattered all over the Province to feel that they are members of a brotherhood and that they do really belong to a world-wide organisation.

Before I actually present the Shield I feel that a word of very warm thanks is due to those who have organised this competition. I know what a lot of correspondence and labour has been devoted,—and gladly devoted, to its organisation by the Organising Secretary, Mr. Bhose, and his assistants: but I also wished to thank all those judges

without whose assistance this afternoon's competition could not have been carried through and all those busy medical men who have given their assistance in judging the ambulance competition. We also owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Rector of St. Xavier's for the use of this beautiful ground.

As regards the three decorations which I am also to offer—the first is the award of the Silver Wolf to Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee. Sir Rajendra Nath has been intimately connected with the Scout Movement since it was taken up by Bengalee boys in 1916 and he has presided over the second Calcutta Local Association since its inception. It is largely due to his support and generosity that the Association has flourished. It will afford me the greatest possible pleasure to decorate him presently with the award of the Silver Wolf, the highest award of the scout craft.

The second is the award of the Medal of Merit to Mr. N. N. Bhose. Mr. Bhose joined the Scout Movement in 1916 and on account of the keen interest he had been taking in it was appointed the Provincial Organising Secretary in 1922. Since then through his zeal and single-minded devotion to work the Association has developed into its present proportions. All Officers of the Association, European and Indian, hold him in the highest regard, and there is no question that the scout organisation in Bengal to-day is one of the greatest influences working for good-will.

The third is the award of the Medal of Merit to Mr. K. Zachariah who was actively connected with

the second Calcutta Association for 12 years and severed his connection with it only on transfer to Chinsurah. He has assisted regularly in the running of Scout Masters' Training Camps. Among all his old scouts some are now acting as Scout Masters all over the Province. He has very richly deserved the award of the Medal of Merit.

His Excellency's Speech at the Convocation of the Calcutta University on 6th February 1932.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

A month ago in this place, in the presence of many who are here with us to-day, an honour was conferred upon me, by direction of the Governing Body of this University, which the practice and custom of this and other Universities denied me the privilege of acknowledging at the time. I wish therefore, to take the first opportunity which has presented itself to me to express in some measure the feelings which I experienced on receiving the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Law of the University of Calcutta. Though I took a degree in Law at Cambridge I cannot claim to have advanced the theory or the practice of law or jurisprudence. For the reason of the honour I prefer to depend upon what you, Sir, set forth in your very generous, and I fear, too complimentary address on that occasion. Four years ago when first I stood before this Convocation as Governor and Chancellor I said it would be my duty and my desire to use my best endeavours as Chancellor to assure the efficiency and progress of the University: in the address to which I have referred, you, Sir, were good enough to say that positive advantages had accrued from the manner in which in time of difficulty and some difference of opinion I had been able to discharge the dual functions of my position bringing to bear upon the responsibilities of each office the knowledge and

experience gained in the other. I should be happy to think that in the verdict which I have just quoted you have seen the fulfilment,—in part at least,—of the undertaking I gave. I shall always be doubly proud of my Calcutta degree if I can think that its bestowal had been intended as a mark of the University's belief that I had done my best to serve her, for that has been my aim throughout the period of my term as Chancellor. I am indeed proud and greatly touched to have received this honour: I am very grateful to all those who gave expression to their good wishes by attending the special Convocation at which it was conferred, and I thank you, Sir, for the very generous references to me and to Lady Jackson which you made on that occasion and which you have again repeated to-day.

We have all listened with attention and great interest to the Vice-Chancellor's thoughtful address. From what he has said it is, I think, clear that the record of the year shows solid work and substantial achievement in most spheres of the University's activities.

The hand of death has fallen unusually heavily upon those in whose care the teaching and administration of the University have rested in the immediate or more remote past. I desire fully to associate myself with the eloquent tributes which the Vice-Chancellor has paid to the memory of General Harris, Mr. James, Mr. Lalmohan Das, Mr. Percival, Principal Raye, Maulvi Muhammad Irfan and Dr. P. K. Roy. In Mahamahopadhyaya Haraprosad Shastri Bengal has lost a distinguished Sanskritist who for nearly half a century has been an international name. We shall miss also the keen

intellect and the trenchant wit of Mr. Khuda Bukhsh whose death last August, after a comparatively brief illness, came as a great shock to his many friends. And lastly the University shares, if indirectly, in the heavy loss which India as a whole has suffered in the death of that great statesman and educationalist, Sir Muhammad Shafi, whose services to the country, educational and political, and whose sympathetic outlook had won him the friendship of every community in India.

The University has also suffered a loss in its personnel in the retirement of the Registrar, Rai Bahadur Gyan Chandra Ghosh. The office of Registrar is very much what its holder makes it,—some men make themselves seemingly indispensable, and the Rai Bahadur was one of these. I welcome the new incumbent of this important post,—Dr. Aditya Nath Mukherji,—who had already made his mark in Government service and in the work of this University.

You have, Sir, in your speech referred to the joint labours of the University and Government to bring into effect the recommendations of the Reorganisation Committee and to the state of uncertainty in which the University staff must remain until you receive from Government an official statement about the amount of financial assistance which will be given by Government in this and succeeding years. This question of the financial assistance required to enable the University to carry out the most important features of the reorganisation scheme, has been very thoroughly thrashed out, largely as a result of the conferences to which you have referred, and I

think we may congratulate ourselves on the atmosphere of mutual co-operation which has been created and in which this difficult problem has been solved.

I fully share the very natural anxiety of the University and its staff on this question of finance and I realise that insecurity of tenure does not make for good work. I am happy, therefore, to be able to inform you that a letter has been sent by Government this day to the University which should set your fears at rest. Government's grant to the University this year will be four lakhs and next year and in succeeding years (subject to certain conditions) the figure will be 3.6 lakhs of rupees.

I shall not take up the time of this Convocation by detailed reference to the excellent work which has been done or to the various distinctions which have been earned during the University year just ended. I should like to take this opportunity of offering my congratulations to Sir Saryapalli Radha Krishnan upon the honour which has been conferred upon him by the King-Emperor. Except to those fortunate persons who have earned distinction there is a sameness which it is impossible altogether to avoid in comments on the academic work of a body like the University. Outside the purely academic sphere, however, the past year has been marked by one welcome innovation to which the Vice-Chancellor's modesty has prevented him giving the publicity which, from a University point of view, it undoubtedly deserves. Last year, for the first time in the history of the University, the Vice-Chancellor attended a session of the Quinquennial Congress of the Universities of the British

Empire. It is a matter for gratification that in all gatherings whether official or social he was accorded the position of leader of the delegates from Indian Universities and that when, for the first time, a delegate from India was invited to preside over one of the sections of the Conference, this honour also fell to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta.

Another feature in the University's extra academic life which I most heartily welcome is the setting up of a Club for the better organization of the University's sports and for the awarding of "Blues." Let me say at once that in my opinion the formation of a central body to regulate these matters for the University as a whole was a reform long overdue, and I very much welcomed the privilege of being the Club's first President. It has always been a matter of the keenest regret to me that the exacting conditions of my office preclude me from coming into more constant and intimate contact with the students of the University, and it was, therefore, with the greatest pleasure that I welcomed the first recipients of the coveted "Blue" and presented them with their badges.

I was much struck by the Vice-Chancellor's remarks upon one of the most serious educational problems before us in India, namely, the menace to the educational system of the country, and to the young lives which are entrusted to it, which the present wave of indiscipline and intolerance of control present. I heartily welcome the resolution on the subject which the Syndicate passed last November and the action which the Vice-Chancellor

has taken to secure for that resolution due publicity. *It is unfortunately true that teachers and parents alike appear of late to have lost that influence which they could and should wield over the rising generation. This process, unless it is arrested, is fraught with disaster to the country and its students alike. The active participation in the political arena of young boys in their teens has not, I think, proved beneficial either to themselves or to the body politic. Teachers and guardians can do much to counter this tendency. I think it was last year that you, Sir, quoted some pungent remarks of the late Sir Asutosh Mookerjee on this point. A better and more attractive method of occupying the spare time of our young men must be provided. Boys and girls must have interests outside the classroom. We have a saying "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" and I believe that the saying applies not only to Jack but to Jill no less. Youth will have its amusements and its excitements. For the favoured few the things of the intellect may suffice,—and these are the stuff of which great scholars are made. But the ordinary boy demands something more and it is hard to say that he is wrong. At present he is getting this excitement from politics and picture houses: that is bad for him: a very little of the one at his age is indigestible and too much of the other is enervating. It is here that the guardian and still more the young schoolmaster or active Professor has his chance. Without denying for one moment that the advancement of learning is the chief object of our educational institutions, it is certain that athletics, sports, well-run common-rooms and a healthy interest in healthy

activities taken by Professors and students alike,—all are necessary to the proper development of a University and, I may add, to the making of the complete man. It is in this way, it seems to me, that the touch which has been lost can be regained. It is in this way that the awful tale of ill-health which is such a handicap to our student community here in Bengal can be lessened. It is in this way that we can make of the bulk of our students fine up-standing, clean-living men like those to whom I had the privilege of presenting their Blues at Government House some months ago.

I offer my congratulations and good wishes to those who to-day have been admitted to their degrees,—many of whom will now be embarking for the first time on the sea of life. The problem of what to do with our graduates is one that does not grow less serious as years go by. In the days when this University was established, nearly three quarters of a century ago, the theory known as the “filtration” theory was a favourite one with educationalists. The essence of this theory as I understand it was the introduction of secondary and higher education for the benefit of the higher classes in the hope that education would then “filter” down to the lower and poorer classes. It was, I am afraid, a pleasing theory which did not work out in practice, yet it contains perhaps the germ of a useful idea.

The University of Calcutta is turning out year by year a very large number of graduates, many of whom will find it impossible to go further in their studies. Some will turn to teaching in secondary schools, and to these is due every encouragement.

But what of the others? At present too many of them go to swell the ranks of the unemployed and it is not altogether surprising if some of them become disaffected. And yet Bengal is full of illiterates who ordinarily will have no chance of gaining even the elements of education. Surely here is the field where the "filtration" theory can work. Bengal now has a Primary Education Act. When it comes into full operation the task of the village school-master, if humble, will be one of responsibility and honour. An opportunity for much good work awaits our graduates who would turn their faces to the villages and realise that the task of regeneration there awaiting them is one of the most vital which confront the people of Bengal. A great deal of useful work has been done in this way by young Bengalis, but the field is almost unlimited and I would suggest to young graduates that they should look to village work as a proper and patriotic outlet for their energies.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the fifth time that I have addressed Convocation as Chancellor and it must in the due order of things be the last. At such a time it is natural that one should look back and "take stock," as it were, before making over charge and severing one's active connection with the concern. The process of stock-taking is rarely one of undiluted pleasure: there is much that must of necessity be "written down" and there may be losses which have to be written off altogether. My term has seen its share of problems and anxieties: I cannot hope that it has been altogether free from mistake. I hope, however, that you will not think me complacent if

I say that, looking back, I do find cause for gratification. When I first addressed you four years ago I said "that I was informed that there was need for change and reform" in the working and organization of this University. Perhaps, as the Vice-Chancellor seems to think, in matters of this kind we move slowly: but the point is that we are moving. In various ways the process or reorganization and reform has made considerable strides during the past five years,—and if we have not got as far as many of us would have wished, we may, I think, claim to have made very definite progress and to have laid the foundation well and truly upon which further reform may be built and established. For this, of course, I claim no personal credit: for the work has prospered through the labours of the University itself on the one side and the Ministry of Education on the other,—my contribution being chiefly that of the humble man with the oil-can whose task it is to keep the working surfaces well lubricated and to reduce friction to a minimum. In the same way, I think, I may claim that during the past five years the old misunderstanding between the University and the Government,—misunderstanding based, I fear, on mutual suspicion,—has proved amenable to treatment and has been largely reduced by the process of getting together and discussing things frankly.

I believe,—and I am glad to think,—that both in its contact with the Ministry of Education and in its general relations with Government authorities the University is now in a happier position than it was five years ago. For this result we have many people to thank,—members of the Senate

and Syndicate: members of the Government and of the services under it. But most of all I wish to attribute the responsibility for this improved state of affairs to three gentlemen to whom I, as Chancellor, owe a personal, and the University as a whole, a public debt of gratitude. From the successive Vice-Chancellors who have held office during my Chancellorship,—Sir Jadu Nath Sarkar, Dr. Urquhart and Colonel Suhrawardy,—the University has received ungrudging service and I am glad to take this opportunity of thanking them for the whole-hearted assistance and sound advice which they in turn have placed so willingly at my disposal. The post of Vice-Chancellor is always an arduous and responsible one: in times like these it is fraught with anxiety as well. That men of the ability and character of the three gentlemen with whom I have been fortunate enough to be associated should be willing to come forward and face the labour and shoulder the responsibilities of this office is the best augury for the future both of the University and of its relations with Government and the world outside.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, the time has come for me to say farewell, I shall have much reason to remember with pleasure and gratitude my connection with the University. It has already played a noble part in the life of Bengal: it may justly look forward to a still greater future,—a future in which it may well be that its responsibilities will be greater than they have ever yet been. I shall watch your progress with interest. May peace and prosperity attend you.

***His Excellency's Reply to the addresses
presented at Jalpaiguri on 19th
February 1932.***

GENTLEMEN,

It is a very great pleasure to Lady Jackson and me to find ourselves back once more—though for so short a stay—in Jalpaiguri. This is our third visit and the cordiality of your welcome has certainly made us feel that we are back among old friends. We both have the happiest memories of our previous visits and we are looking forward to spending an enjoyable day here before we have to say good-bye.

I should like particularly to thank the members of the District Board for the resolutions which they have adopted and with which, I gather, all present here have sought to associate themselves, congratulating me on my escape at the University Convocation a fortnight ago. I should like, if I may, very fully to associate myself with the resolution which expresses admiration for the courage and presence of mind displayed by the Vice-Chancellor on that occasion. It is a source of very much gratification to me that His Majesty the King-Emperor has thought fit to mark his appreciation of Colonel Suhrawardy's conduct by the immediate bestowal of the honour of Knighthood. His Majesty's unerring instinct has translated into fact the wishes of his loyal subjects that gallantry in saving life at personal risk should not pass unmarked and unrewarded.

Gentlemen, a matter to which, in your addresses, you have nearly all referred is the question of the

erosion of the Teesta River with the consequent risk to valuable lands and communications on the east bank. Your anxieties on this score are no new matter and I fully realise the extent to which they must have been increased by the alarming occurrences of last August. As has been stated in the Dooars Planters' Association Address, the area in question was inspected by the experts of the Railway Board in January, when the Government of Bengal were also strongly represented by their own expert advisers. The Government of Bengal have not yet received information as to the proposals of the Railway Board and until the nature of these proposals is known, they are not in a position to arrive at any decision as to their own future policy or line of action. They are, however, fully alive to the dangers of the position, and from the references made in more than one of the addresses to the possibility or desirability of finding another outlet for communication with the Dooars, I think I may fairly infer that the difficulty of controlling erosion in the case of so large and violent a river as the Teesta can become in times of flood, is generally appreciated. The only certain remedy would appear to lie in linking up the Bengal Dooars Railway with the Eastern Bengal Railway in one of the ways suggested. This must in any case take time and there is a danger in the meantime of a complete breakdown of the existing means of railway communication. I can only say, gentlemen, that, while the main responsibility for meeting the threat to your railway communications would seem to lie with the railway authorities, my Government are fully alive to the dangers of the situation and to the importance of the interests

involved, and are ready to do their part in meeting the former and safeguarding the latter.

Gentlemen of the Municipality, you have referred in your address,—not for the first time, I am afraid,—to the danger in which the buildings of your High English School for girls are placed from the erosion resulting from the confluence of two rivers. You estimate that the erection of permanent protective works to take the place of the temporary works which the Municipality have hitherto employed will cost a sum of Rs. 5,000. I have seen another estimate which puts the figure somewhat higher,—at between six and seven thousand rupees. The sum is not a great one and I should have thought that it might well have been met from local subscriptions. I am prepared to bring the matter to the notice of the Hon'ble Education Minister for his consideration whether, if a fund is raised locally, Government should contribute to it, but I am afraid that it will be useless in the present state of the Province's finances for you to wait in the hope that Government will be able and willing to finance the whole project.

Gentlemen of the District Board, your proposal that the Cess Act should be revised to render Government forests liable to cess involves a principle which cannot, I am afraid, be accepted without very careful scrutiny. Apart from the increased expense to Government which the suggestion entails, its effect would *prima facie* be to subsidise the District Boards of districts in which there happened to be areas of reserved forest, in a manner which it would be extremely difficult to justify to the satisfaction of other District Boards

which, having no reserved forests, did not receive this preferential treatment. Moreover, such preferential treatment could, of course, only be given at the expense of the general tax-payer who is interested in the development of the forests as an important provincial asset and as a revenue-earning department of Government.

I am much concerned at what you say regarding the strictures which the Inspectors of the Bengal Council of Medical Registration have passed upon the arrangements at the Sadar Hospital. I have no doubt my Government will take notice of the possibility in the last resort of the withdrawal of recognition therein indicated, while at the same time the Council will realise the difficulty of effecting large capital improvements at a time, such as the present, and give due consideration to the resources for medical tuition at Jalpaiguri in comparison with those of other recognised schools. Some of the defects to which the Inspectors have referred in their report were foreseen and alluded to at the time of the opening of the medical school, when I pointed out that certain improvements in the hospital were called for, keeping in view the part which the hospital should play both as the Sadar Hospital of the headquarters town of the Rajshahi Division and as the training ground of the students in the medical school. I am afraid that I can add little to what I said on that occasion. I am advised that there is no prospect that any of the capital or proceeds of the endowment raised for the medical school can be made available for the hospital. The creation of this endowment, which after all covers only a part of the recurring cost of running the

school, was an essential feature of the conditions under which Government undertook to construct and maintain the school, and while I realise the difficulty of the times and the extent to which the locality is dependent upon prosperity in the tea industry, I am afraid that I can really add nothing to what I said on this subject when the medical school was opened,—namely, that the improvement of the local hospital is a matter for the District Board and a matter in which the Board can well call upon the mercantile and professional men of this large town to play their part. At the same time, I think, I may say without committing the Ministries of the future that any proposals for the capital improvement of the hospital would be eligible to take their chance with other similar claims for a non-recurring grant-in-aid when funds for such grants are again more readily available.

Gentlemen of the Anjuman, I do not propose—and you will not expect me—to dwell at length on the political situation at present obtaining in the country. I feel, however, that I must express my gratification at the terms in which you have expressed your condemnation of all movements which aim at the subversion of the established Government of the country. Having come here straight from the deliberations which my Government and also the Provincial Committee are at present holding with the Franchise Committee of which the Under Secretary of State for India is Chairman, I am in a position to assure you that no time is being lost, or labour spared, to arrive at an agreed conclusion regarding the future constitution of India as outlined in the Prime Minister's speech.

You ask that the settlement operations now being carried on in this district be postponed until the economic situation improves. As you know, however, the current settlement of the Government estates in Jalpaiguri expires in March 1934 and operations had to be started this year if they were to be completed by that date. The operations being for the revision of Government revenue the entire cost is being borne by Government and while, of course, Government hope eventually to obtain increased revenue in cases where there has been extension of cultivation and also where the present rent can fairly be enhanced, you should bear in mind that none of the increases or enhancements can come into effect before April 1934 by which time it would be reasonable to expect more normal conditions.

Gentlemen of the Indian Tea Association, I am afraid that a copy of your address reached me too late to admit of my studying the controversial matters raised in one portion of it. I will look into these on my return to Calcutta. In the meantime I will only say that I fully realise the difficult times through which the industry as a whole is passing at this moment,—largely, I am afraid, through competition from other countries. My Government have, as you know, joined the Government of the neighbouring Province in supporting your request for a duty on foreign-grown teas accompanied by a restoration of Imperial Preference. It is not easy to reimpose duties on articles of common consumption once they have been removed, but the whole policy of the Government of the United Kingdom with regard to tariffs is in the melting pot at the

moment and as one who, in less than six weeks' time, will be free from the shackles of office in Bengal, I do not think I need conceal my own personal sympathy with your demand,—a sympathy born from my own political convictions and strengthened by my experience in this great tea-producing Province.

And now, gentlemen, as you know, the main object of my coming to Jalpaiguri to-day is to visit the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles in camp and to take leave of them as a Regiment. They have arranged a very full day's programme for me and I must lose no time in tackling it. It has been a great pleasure to Lady Jackson and to me to meet you all again here to-day. We are greatly touched by the warmth of your welcome and of your good wishes for the future. When we leave Bengal next month it will be with a very lively recollection of many good friends whom we must perforce leave behind and I can assure you that among the happy memories of our stay in Bengal our three visits to Jalpaiguri will certainly stand out pre-eminent. I wish you all, here in Jalpaiguri, happiness and prosperity.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Rajendra Nath Mallik Hospital at
Singur on 21st February 1932.***

MR. MALLIK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As this hospital is to be formally opened by Lady Jackson and as she intends, I understand, to address you at the time, it will be fitting, I think, if in the brief remarks I have to offer I may be allowed to associate myself with, and to try to voice the feelings of, those of us who are Mr. and Mrs. Mallik's guests here to-day.

My acquaintance with Mr. Mallik—which soon ripened into friendship—dates back, as he has said, to a day late in 1926 in that “monstrous and foggy town of London” to which he has referred. I remember the occasion well, for Mr. Mallik was the first Indian from whom I really heard anything about Bengal and its people after the announcement that I was to come here in succession to Lord Lytton. From that day till the day when I sailed I had many talks with Mr. Mallik and I was from the outset profoundly impressed both by his own personality and by his devotion to his own Province and her people and his desire to see their prosperity and progress assured on sound lines.

There are, however, as I realise, many among his guests here to-day who have known Mr. Mallik longer and better than I have. To such an audience it is unnecessary for me to recount the details of Mr. Mallik's career. He has a record of public

service, both here and in England, of which he has every reason to be proud, and I feel certain that I merely voice the sentiments of many who have the interests of the country at heart when I say that we should like to see Mr. Mallik once more taking an active part in the public life of the Province and of the country: men of his character, broad-mindedness, honesty and courage are wanted in Bengal now more than ever before. Mr. Mallik's return to active public life in Bengal would be welcomed by Indians and Europeans alike.

The function which, thanks to Mr. Mallik's generosity and thoughtfulness, we are able to attend to-day brings into prominence another trait which is characteristic of Mr. Mallik and characteristic, I believe, of all that is best in the Bengali race,—I mean his devotion to the memory of his father. The establishment of this hospital is a striking, though not, I am glad to say, an isolated instance in this Province of the spirit which combines affectionate veneration for the memory of a departed parent or consort with service of the first importance to neighbours who are still with us. This combination of filial affection for the departed with service to the living must excite our keenest admiration. As I say,—this is not the only example of that I have met with during my term of office in Bengal, but it is one of the most generous: I trust that the spirit which inspired it,—a spirit so much in keeping with the traditions of India,—will persist and that others will follow Mr. Mallik's noble example. I can think of no more fitting tribute to a life spent, as Mr. Mallik has told us, in the service of his fever-stricken countrymen than

the erection and endowment of this hospital where the beneficent work so splendidly begun can be carried on long after the originator has passed away.

Mr. Mallik has told us something of the interesting history of the project,—how, out of a small centre for malarial and kala-azar treatment started by Mr. Mallik and Dr. Sourindra Nath Chatterjee, sprang the idea of founding a permanent dispensary and how, out of the scheme for a dispensary, this hospital, with ten beds and two separate beds for infectious cases, has come into being. Mr. Mallik has with characteristic generosity attempted to divert our attention from himself to his good neighbour and collaborator, Dr. Chatterjee, and, indeed, the people of this locality have every reason to be grateful to Dr. Chatterjee for the part which he has played in showing them how they can find salvation from these fevers, and for the devotion he has displayed in treating them at his own house and at his own expense. The people of this locality owe much to Dr. Chatterjee. But this hospital as we see it to-day is the creation of Mr. Mallik. He gave the land: he gave the building: he gave the furniture and equipment: and he has contributed handsomely to the endowment. I can tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that first and last the project has cost him nearly twice as much as he thought he was prepared to spend on it at the outset,—a fact for which we have to thank the persistence of Mrs. Mallik and the prayers of the local people who well knew that our host would be unable to resist their appeals when every instinct in him impelled him to yield to their gentle pressure.

Mr. Mallik has spoken generously of the help which he has received from Government in maturing the project and it is true that had Government and the District Board not been able to help in the matter of recurring charges, the scheme would have had to be much less ambitious. I am glad that, even at a time of financial stringency such as we are passing through, Government have found themselves able to help: that they have done so is because they recognise the value of the project, both in itself as a boon to the people of this locality and in the wider sense as an example in self-help to the entire population of the province. I am glad also that the District Board, to whom the hospital has just been formally transferred for maintenance, have seen their way to shoulder part of the responsibility for its upkeep. As Governor I am also gratified to hear of the help which individual officers,—executive and technical,—have afforded at different stages of the project's history: I am gratified but not surprised, for I have seen enough of the work of the district officers of this Province and of the heads of our great technical departments to make me realise that nothing that conduces to the health and well-being of the people in their care can ever lack their sympathy and support.

Of the building before us we shall see more presently when Lady Jackson has declared it open. In the meantime we can see enough to satisfy ourselves that the greatest credit is due to Mr. Mallik himself (who seems to have been largely his own architect and clerk of the works) and to the engineers, builders, contractors and masons who have played their part in the erection of this

hospital. By Mr. Mallik's generosity it is presently to be my privilege to present a gold medal to the master mason and a purse to Babu Rajani Kanta Das who supervised much of the actual work of construction. As Mr. Mallik, by his own confession, frequently changed the plans during construction to admit of the additions upon which, as I have said, Mrs. Mallik insisted, I think we can honestly congratulate these two gentlemen on the result to which they have so greatly contributed !

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I said. that I hoped to be allowed to speak as a guest for my fellow-guests, and it is fitting, therefore, that I should thank Mr. and Mrs. Mallik for their kindness in enabling us to see the new hospital and to take part in this auspicious ceremony. Many of us have come a long way to be present to-day, but even here Mr. Mallik has smoothed our paths, and if we have come so far, it is, I am sure, with the idea of expressing our appreciation of Mr. Mallik's public-spirited generosity and our congratulations to him and all concerned on the successful translation into bricks and mortar of this truly admirable project. And as an ounce of practical help is worth a ton of good wishes, I shall be very glad to make a donation to the new hospital of Rs. 600 to permit of the acquisition of a microscope and a steam steriliser.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Afternoon
Party held on 3rd March 1932 to
celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the
Qaloutta Historical Society.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I believe that the actual anniversary of the founding of this learned society occurs towards the end of April, and I very much appreciate your consideration in putting forward the date of your celebrations so that I could take part in this happy little gathering. A quarter of a century is a long spell in time for a Society of this kind which has neither Club House nor the stimulation of regular meetings—to hang together: and the fact that the Society has not only kept going but has steadily enhanced its own prestige and popularity is, I think, evidence of the extent to which its foundation was justified and the extent also to which it has attained the excellent aims and objects with which it was founded. There will always, I like to think, be persons among us willing and qualified to probe the past, to gather the loose ends of history, to throw fresh light from original sources on matters of doubt and controversy. It is desirable,—I might almost say necessary,—that there should be some forum where persons with these interests should meet for the discussion and interchange of their ideas: the Society provides this forum. It is even more necessary that there should be some medium by which their views and their discoveries can be made known to their fellow-members in the

Society and to the interested public in other parts of the world. This is the function of the Society's quarterly journal. It seems to me that this quarterly,—“Bengal Past and Present,”—is the nucleus round which the Society has really formed and maintained its being. It is the means by which the Society has become known and respected among the learned societies of the world. It is the main source of allurements for the attraction of the kind of recruits whom we wish to see in the Society. It serves as a repository for many of those correspondences and researches which,—though of great interest,—might not by their volume or importance justify separate publication by their authors. I cannot help feeling that but for the existence of our Journal some of these investigations would never be made and the results of others would never see the light of day. And finally speaking as a Governor I can assure you that the Society's Journal is an ever-present help in trouble when places of historical interest have to be visited and a speech is expected from the hard-worked head of the Province! We are rightly proud of our Journal and thankful to those,—busy men, most of them—who as editors or contributors have helped us and are still helping us to maintain its high standard. The Journal must be kept going at all costs. This is a bad time, I realise, for beating up recruits but I am sanguine enough to believe that, as in the past, our Journal itself will prove our best recruiting agency: if our members would tactfully see that their copies come under the notice of their more literary friends, I believe the Journal itself will do the rest.

I wish very fully to associate myself with all that has been said about the services of our honorary officials,—especially Mr. Abdul Ali, Mr. Ganguly and Mr. Gurner. It is a common experience in societies of this kind that the main work falls on the Secretary and the Editor. They have their reward in the success which has attended their labours, but I should like them to know that they have our warmest thanks and appreciation as well.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an informal gathering and I have come here not to make a speech but, as a member of the Society, to rejoice with you on the completion by the Society of twenty-five years of pleasant and useful association. I cannot, however, sit down without endeavouring to convey to you how very much touched I am at the kind references which have to-day been made by you, Sir, and endorsed by the ladies and gentlemen present. On Lady Jackson's behalf and my own I thank you for your good wishes and for this very handsome and interesting memento which will always serve to remind me of my connection with this learned Society. I wish the Society a continuance of its successful career: may it be still "not out" when the half century is signalled.

His Excellency's Speech at the prize-giving of the Barrackpore Government School on 6th March 1932.

MR. HEADMASTER, TEACHERS AND BOYS,

This is, I am afraid, the last time that I shall have the pleasure of attending your annual prize-giving. I think I have been able to come every year but one, and it has always been a great pleasure to me and to Lady Jackson to see the progress of this well-conducted school and to listen to your recitations.

In the first place I must thank you all for the congratulations which you have offered on my recent escape at the University Convocation: I am particularly grateful to you, Khan Sahib, for the generous terms in which you have expressed the feelings of your staff and students. And I should also like to thank those responsible for the school magazine for the generous references made in it to my providential escape.

From the report which you, Sir, have forwarded to me, I think I can confidently say that the hope which I expressed in welcoming you to this school last year has been entirely fulfilled. I said on that occasion that I felt sure that under your able leadership the school would maintain and even improve its past record, and I see grounds for believing that it has already done so. I am glad to see that the numbers of pupils on the rolls are maintained and—still more important—that the attendance record which has always been high in this school is practically up to last year's very good

figure. I wish you success in your efforts to increase the number of Muhammadan boys attending the school: I note that it still falls far short of the relative proportion of Moslems to Hindus in the subdivision. It has always seemed to me that in a small school where games are well organised and the boys are well looked after the presence of a considerable element of the community which happens to be in the minority locally is an excellent thing as likely to inculcate in the rising generation a fellow feeling or at all events a feeling of toleration for, and a better understanding of, their friends of the other community. Communal hatred is largely a product of ignorance and misunderstanding, and these are themselves the fruits of isolation,—of the two communities living in separate and self-contained compartments.

Examination results are again good, I see,—indeed the results of the last matriculation examination strike me as being excellent: they reflect the greatest credit on staff and students alike. I congratulate the school also, and the editorial staff in particular, on the success of the school magazine. The real test of a school magazine is the quantity and quality of the original contributions from pupils actually in the school. Judged by this standard I think your magazine is being run on the right lines.

From the point of view of health, I am very pleased to hear that it has been found practicable to get the boys out more into the open air for their classes. If, as I understand, your class rooms are airless and over-crowded, this is the obvious remedy till times improve and there is money for reconstruction.

I congratulate those who have secured prizes to-day, and extend my sympathy to those who have not. I hope that some of those who have not been successful this year will figure in the next list of prize-winners. I must say, too, that we have greatly enjoyed listening to the recitations: I remember thinking last year that the recitations which we then heard were the best I had ever listened to in Bengal. This year's, I am glad to find, are just as good.

So far as organised sports go, you have given a very satisfactory report of the year's doings. I congratulate those who won their events in the inter-school sports organised by Mr. Worth and also the school football team who have won, I understand, the Mihir Memorial Cup.

It was a great pleasure to Lady Jackson and to me to meet the scouts on the occasion of their outing to Darjeeling. I am glad to see that the school troop gave a good account of themselves in the subdivisinal rallies. I hope the cubs are following the good example of keenness and diligence set by their elder brothers in the Troop.

You have referred, Mr. Headmaster, in your report to the way in which you are handicapped for want of furniture in the school,—especially such things as chairs, desks and wall maps. I am afraid I cannot give you all the furniture that you desire to have, but I shall be glad, as a parting gift, to make a donation of Rs. 250, towards the supply of furniture for the school. I shall leave it to your discretion to select the articles which you will get with this, but I hope that wall maps will find a

place in your purchases, and I should be glad to hear before I leave Bengal at the end of the month how you propose to spend the money.

In conclusion, I must thank you all, teachers and boys, for the good wishes which the Headmaster has voiced on your behalf for our future happiness when we leave Bengal. I can assure you that the occasions when we have been able to entertain you in the Park will remain a happy memory to us, and we both wish "the Governor's School" every success in the future.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Calcutta Committee of the Kallimpong Homes on 15th March 1932.

This is the fifth occasion upon which I have had the pleasure of presiding at the Annual Meeting of the Calcutta Committee of the Homes though I am regretfully reminded that this will be the last. I must first say how glad we all are to see Dr. Graham back amongst us after an absence for nearly a year in Scotland where he has been discharging one of the most honourable positions that any man can be called to undertake. It was a great shock to many of us to hear that during his return voyage Dr. Graham was taken ill. I am sure we are all delighted to know that he has now fully recovered from his indisposition. I can well understand how irksome this enforced rest which prevented him getting back into close touch with his beloved Homes must have been.

I well remember the first visit I paid to the Homes in May of 1927 and I shall never forget the impression which that wonderful organisation made upon my mind. I had the opportunity of paying another visit there last autumn and bidding farewell to the Staff and the children.

I am reminded that there have been some notable additions made to the organisation of the Homes during this last five years through the assistance of bequests by leaders of commercial and industrial life of India. It was, I believe, about the time I first arrived in India that the Birkmyre Hostel

was opened in Calcutta and shortly afterwards the Murray Motor Road up to the Homes was finished and the Rest House for tired workers, whilst Mr. Fyfe provided an up-to-date bakery and Sir Thomas and Lady Smith of Cawnpore added to the Babies' Cottage and the Nursery Nurse Training Centre and Sir Charles Bell provided a much-needed Staff Bungalow. The Laidlaw bequest made it possible to provide a Workers' Provident Fund, improved the sanitation and helped the provision of necessary additional buildings. All these progresses were very satisfactory, but unfortunately the latter period has been one of increasing anxiety as regards the maintenance of the ordinary income to meet the current expenses of the Homes. Deficits in the working account have increased until the Board of Management have had to consider the possibility of closing some of the Cottages and reducing the number of children. Every one realises that in these times the ever-growing need of helpless children demands keeping the doors even wider open than they have been during comparatively better times.

I am very reluctant in times like these to make any new calls upon the purses of the well-disposed, but the call of Kalimpong is not a new call. It is a call from an Institution which has outgrown its probation and has established a claim to the generous consideration of the well-to-do amongst us Europeans and amongst the Domiciled Communities which it serves. I am quite satisfied that any one who subscribes to Kalimpong Homes knows that his money would be utilised to the best possible advantage.

The problem of the Anglo-Indians in India is a very serious one and one which has exercised the minds of statesmen in the past as it is, indeed, doing to-day. The only people who have tackled the problem with any success so far are the philanthropists, but the problem is not one which can be solved satisfactorily by the philanthropist alone. There is no section of the people which has been more adversely affected by the present position in India and we in Calcutta have every reason to know the distress which prevails to-day. I have heard of many cases where Anglo-Indian children are unable to continue their education through the inability of the parents to meet the fees. I am hopeful that before I leave India I may know that something has been done through the generosity of the European public to help the community in this respect over this very difficult period. They must be helped to take every advantage of the educational facilities available in order to make themselves as fit as possible to contribute their full share to the common good.

I am sorry that Lady Jackson has not been able to be present with me to-day, but she is well employed, I understand, at a meeting of the Society for the Protection of Children in India. I have on several occasions expressed my admiration for Dr. Graham and all those associated with him in the conduct of this wonderful work at Kalimpong and I would once more assure him of my genuine interest and my sincere best wishes for the continued success in their noble endeavours.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross Society on 16th March 1932.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is, I am afraid, the last time that I shall have the pleasure of presiding over the joint annual meeting of these two societies. After a stay of five years in Bengal Lady Jackson and I have nothing but admiration for the magnificent work that is being done in their name, not merely in Calcutta but in the many places throughout the Province where we have come into contact with it.

The Red Cross Society has many spheres of activity and I am glad to see from the annual report that in all of these another good year's work has been put in. The work of the Military Division in collecting and forwarding literature and comforts to the troops on the Frontier and elsewhere must naturally appeal to anyone who realises the debt we owe to His Majesty's Forces in these times of doubt and difficulty. I am glad to see that the troops in our own Province,—especially the troops at Chittagong,—were not forgotten. Here and in the Hospital Division our thanks are due to all who, either by supplying literature or comforts or drugs or packing material, or by packing and forwarding them, have contributed to the success of the work. The work of the Health Welfare Division takes many forms,—clinics and welfare centres forming a large part. Here again, from what I can gather, there has been no diminution

in enthusiasm or activity, and the more specialised activities, like the Training School and the Bengal Health Welfare Week, seem to have maintained the high educative value attained in the past. The acting Chairman, Colonel Craddock, and his Managing Body are to be congratulated on another year of successful work and I should like to express to Colonel Craddock in particular the thanks of this meeting for the labour he has devoted to this work during the past two years.

As regards the St. John Ambulance, I am glad to see that the work, both of the Association and of the Brigade, has prospered in spite of difficulties, financial and otherwise. It is most satisfactory to observe how popular the training has become on the railways and in the police. All centres are indebted to the medical men and lay lecturers who have ungrudgingly given their time and labour to the task of instructing and of examining. I am not in the least dismayed to see that the proportion of failures in the examination is rather high. I take this as reflecting more than anything else a high sense of duty on the part of the Examining staff and a determination on the part of the Association to keep their examinations from degenerating into mere formality.

So far as the work of the Brigade goes, most of the divisions can show a good record of attendance and performance at public functions, melas and the like. I am glad to learn that the Surgeon-General, as Assistant Commissioner, is taking such an active interest in the work and organisation of the Brigade: I notice that most of the divisions also acknowledge the assistance they have at all times

readily received from Mr. J. Burnett, who must be one of the veterans of St. John Ambulance work in Calcutta.

The first aid "road station" opened at the beginning of the year has proved a success. Remembering that in the nature of things it can only deal with the accidents that take place within a narrow radius of itself it must be with mixed feelings that one learns of as many as 412 accident cases treated there within the year. But unless we are to suppose that the public courted disaster merely to test the new road station we must, I think, realise that these figures more than justify the opening of the road station, and now that another one is being inaugurated near Howrah Bridge, I think the Association's claim to public support,—moral and financial,—should be outside the range of challenge. These road stations cost, I understand, something over Rs. 3,000 per annum each to run and though the first one is financed out of the donation of the Royal Calcutta Turf Club, I understand there is some anxiety as to the source from which the money for the second one is to come. One might very fairly look for subscriptions to the general funds of the Association by way of thank offerings from some of those who receive help at one or other of the road stations: perhaps also we may look to some of the big users of road transport to help us.

Mrs. Cottle has referred to the honours conferred on members of the Bengal Provincial Centre recently. Lady Jackson and I are very grateful for the kind way in which the announcement of the distinctions conferred upon us have been received.

I am sure we shall all wish to congratulate General Coppinger and Sir Hassan Suhrawardy on the recognition of their work for St. John Ambulance and also Mrs. C. V. Smith, Mrs. E. King and Mrs. Hamlyn.

It is with great regret that I have heard that we are to lose Mr. Benthall as our Chairman. The Association and the Society have profited much by his thought and labour on their behalf, but we realise that the calls on his time are numerous and pressing. We are grateful to him for all he has done in the past, and we count on his sympathy and, if occasion arises, his help and support in the future. I am glad to welcome in his place Mr. Henderson, our new Chairman. He has a high standard to live up to but I have every confidence that he will succeed. He will no doubt have the splendid support which Mrs. Cottle and such helpers as Mrs. Chidley have once again rendered to the Association.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I must take leave of you. I have greatly valued my opportunities of active connection with your works as President both of the Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance. I shall always cherish the memory of that Association. May your works prosper. Good-bye.

***The Excellency's Speech at the unveiling
of the portrait of the late Maharaja
Kshatish Chandra Roy Bahadur, of
Nadla, at the Legislative Council on
21st March 1932.***

MR. SINGH ROY AND GENTLEMEN,

I readily availed myself of your kind invitation to take part in to-day's ceremony and I welcomed the opportunity which it afforded me, before leaving Bengal, to pay my tribute to one for whom I had a great regard as a colleague and a friend.

I well remember the public meeting to which you, Mr. Singh Roy, have referred and I have not forgotten the remarkable demonstration of feeling on that occasion both on the platform and throughout the Hall when prominent men of all castes, creeds and political thought joined in an expression of genuine sympathy and respect for one whose unexpected death had come as a severe shock to all who knew him.

I can fully endorse all that you have said in your eloquent tribute to the Maharaja Bahadur's personal qualities. At the age of 20 he succeeded his illustrious father, the late Maharaja Bahadur Kshitish Chandra Ray, as head of an ancient and highly-respected family. The Maharaja Bahadur was rightly proud of his ancient lineage. His family had been settled in Bengal for over 900 years, during which period many of them had rendered conspicuous service to their country. The record of their patronage of learning and their generosity to religious men, not merely of the Hindu faith, is well known and is a source of justifiable pride.

On the death of his father the Maharaja Bahadur at once proceeded to fit himself to carry out the responsibilities of his position and to train himself for useful service to his people and to the State. He was elected the first non-official Chairman of the District Board of Nadia in 1920 and in the same year he entered the first Reformed Bengal Legislative Council. For four years he sat in the Council as an elected Member for Nadia until he was chosen to succeed Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu as a Member of the Bengal Executive Council. As a Member, he soon proved himself possessed of qualities of judgment and political sagacity which led to his appointment as Leader of the House in 1927. As you have, Sir, reminded us, at that time political feeling ran high and the position of the Leader of the House required patience, tact, courage and political wisdom in the highest degree.

As a colleague, one recognised in him a man of principle with the courage of his convictions and a capacity to champion them without fear. He was in the best sense a patriotic Indian, an ardent devotee to his country's political advancement. I have no doubt that if the Maharaja were with us to-day he would rejoice at the prospect of the additional political responsibility which is foreshadowed and he would urge with all his might the hastening of the day by constructive support. Any one who had the privilege of his friendship will never forget his genial and kindly disposition, his priceless sense of humour and the almost boyish delight with which he entertained his friends.

The Maharaja Bahadur died on the 22nd of May 1928. It was a matter of much regret that he did not survive to receive the honour of the Knight Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire which His Majesty the King Emperor had authorised, as was disclosed by a special announcement in the Gazette, promulgated by His Majesty's Command.

The picture which I am now to unveil is to be handed over to this Council House for safe custody. I have not seen the picture, but I understand that the Artist has achieved a very successful likeness. The picture will remind all who look upon it of ~~the~~ one who, during his much-too-limited period, served Bengal well and whose career held out much promise for the future. The privilege of having one's memory perpetuated by a portrait within the precincts of a Parliament House will, I do not doubt, be jealously guarded and though it should be the aim of all to aspire to the honour, it can only be for the few to attain to it. I feel, however, that in the case of the late Maharaja Bahadur no one will question his right to such a distinction. I now unveil the picture of Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra Ray, a noble son of Bengal and a fine Indian gentleman.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Bengal
Legislative Council on 24th March
1932.***

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

I have asked the Council to meet at this hour to-day to enable me to take my leave of you and to bid you farewell. It is not my intention to occupy more than a few minutes of your time and the occasion demands that I should avoid any matter of a controversial nature. At the same time I felt that I could not contemplate with any satisfaction to myself the idea of leaving this province without offering to the members of this Council an expression of my gratitude for the consideration and courtesy which I have invariably received from you, Sir, and from the honourable members of this House.

On an occasion like this I may be pardoned if, for a moment, I look back over the period during which I have been associated with the Government of this province and with the present Council and its immediate predecessor.

I consider myself fortunate that it was given to me to see the Council established in this beautiful Council House. You have now had a year in which to test its qualities: I feel sure you must all be satisfied with them and I am confident,—and the year that has just passed serves to strengthen the conviction,—that in these noble and impressive surroundings you and your successors will find inspiration for the discharge of the responsible task to which you are called.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary for me to refer to the fact that for the whole period since five years ago I first came to Bengal, Government and members of this House have laboured under an ever-increasing financial difficulty. Projects admirable in themselves and even necessary in any well-conducted modern state have had to be withheld from the House,—or if placed before the House, and by the House on the Statute Book, have had to be held in abeyance till better times produce the money to finance them. In spite of that this House has to its credit, I venture to think, a good record of work well done for the province.

We have always had in front of us the urgent needs of the millions who dwell and toil throughout the districts in this province. I was pleased when that important but complicated measure, the Bengal Tenancy Act, was passed. It was, I believe, originally sponsored by the late Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia and eventually ably piloted through this House by the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter. But the two great needs which appeared to me to cry out loudest for attention were increased and better facilities for education and constant care for the improvement of public health. The Rural Primary Education Act, which this Council passed 18 months ago, seems to me to be fraught with greater potentialities for the good of the province than any measure which has yet been passed into law in the Reformed Councils of Bengal. It is a matter of great regret that the all-pervading blight of shortage of means delays its complete institution. But you will proceed with it as soon as possible: your people want this help. In matters

of public health and local self-government the Council has by its vote helped and sustained the Minister in a policy which includes the development of the system of health circles which is working well in every corner of the province. public health in Bengal must be your primary care. There is no province where this is more necessary than in Bengal. If you once let the care of public health be overlooked, serious trouble must ensue. I am afraid that there is yet great scope for education in matters of sanitation in Bengal. From my experience of it I am led to hope that further extension and strengthening of the Union Board system will receive your support. I am satisfied that Union Boards supply the foundation and training ground of democracy and provide the experience which must form the basis of every true democratic system of Government. It is through them that the value of the vote and how to use it is learnt.

I must also gratefully acknowledge the way in which the House has risen to the full height of its responsibilities when demands have had to be made upon it for funds and for legislation for the maintenance of peace and good Government in the province.

But, perhaps, I may express the view that more important than any particular legislative measure—however weighty or courageous—that the Council has adopted, has been the general attitude of the present Council towards its own responsibilities and the potentialities of the constitution. It is true at one period that some of your predecessors showed a disposition to dispense with the assistance of Ministers, but I must readily acknowledge that

throughout the greater part of its term the present Council has worked to the full the constitution for which the Government of India Act provides and has maintained in office with only one change, which the Council did not itself impose, a team of Ministers who, both before and since the change to which I have referred, have done most creditable service both to Government and to the people of this province.

I feel also that members of this Council will agree that much credit is due to the permanent officials for the part they have played in the work of the Council. Attendance in Council and the task of carrying with them the opinion and assent of the House were duties which it is safe to assume none of the present official members of the House foresaw when they elected to enter the service of the Crown and of India. To them it is a compulsory addition to an already over-crowded official life, but I believe they have served the Council well in helping to build up its traditions and in preparing the way for those who in the future will occupy the Government benches.

And lastly, as regards the past, you will allow me, as one with some experience of the spirit and intricacies of Parliamentary procedure, to offer my congratulations on the manner in which, in general, the business of the House had been carried on. If you have been fortunate in the occupant of the Presidential chair, as you have been, you are also entitled to the credit of having loyally combined to make his task one for the display rather of the velvet glove than of the iron hand.

So much for the past: as regards the future, before I came to Bengal I realised that during my term of office would fall some at all events of the inquiries necessary with a view to the further implementing of the policy of His Majesty's Government as regards the future Government of India. As a matter of fact this problem has been exercising the minds of statesmen here and in England almost continuously ever since I came out. I need not recapitulate the various steps that have already been taken, but I think I am right in believing that in spite of the distance yet to be travelled and the hurdles still to be crossed, it must fall to my immediate successor to order the election which will provide this province with its first autonomous Government.

I cannot help feeling that it will be all to the good when the present transition stage with its expectancy and with all its uncertainty and doubt, is over and we know definitely where we stand. Transition is difficult in itself and the atmosphere of transition is also a difficult atmosphere in which to carry on the work of administration. I think we shall all agree that the sooner we can pass through this period the better,—so that on the lines marked out and within the constitution laid down you may all settle down and concentrate on constructive and progressive work for the advancement and increased happiness of the province. I shall not be here to offer you my help in that task, but I look forward to the days when I may hear and read of your achievements under the new constitution.

I like to picture this House divided into parties, with policies based upon principles, each policy

conceived and urged in the general interests, though varying in the methods of achievements proposed. These parties and policies will, I hope, produce leaders who will not only sway public opinion in Bengal but who will play an important part in the higher Councils of State.

Perhaps before I finish I may strike a personal note. I have tried my best to keep the scales even. I am personally conscious of much good-will which has been extended to me and which, I believe, has come from understanding and mutual respect. Understanding and mutual respect can help in the solution of many difficult problems. Get them established in India not only between British and Indian but also between Indian and Indian and then you will find the road clear for rapid progress towards peace and prosperity. I bid you farewell, and may all success attend your efforts.

